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NGO's Urge Slowdown for APEC Liberalization

BK2211123895 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 22 Nov 95

[Article by Martin Khor: "APEC Should Take It Slow and Easy" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the wake of the APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] meetings in Osaka, several leading public interest groups in the region have called for a slowdown on the rapid economic liberalisation being pushed by some of APEC's powerful countries.

Thirty non-governmental organisations [NGO] from eight different countries have issued a joint statement addressed to the APEC leaders and officials assembled at Osaka demanding that APEC should not be converted into a free trade area or a legally-binding agreement.

"APEC should return to its original objective and function as a loose non-structured forum for discussion on regional trade and economic affairs," said the statement. The Osaka meeting should not take measures to convert APEC to a "formalised and legally binding free trade arrangement."

The NGO's also cautioned APEC countries not to be pressurised into accepting a standard and rapid rate of economic liberalisation. "Instead, each country should be allowed to liberalise their various sectors and activities at their own chosen rates, depending on the level of overall economic development, the strength and weakness of the various sectors, and the country's development objectives and strategies," the statement said. "There should not be any binding timeframe for liberalisation."

Groups issuing the statement included the Third World Network, Just Trust and Consumers' Association of Penang (from Malaysia); Centre for Alternative Development Alternatives and Asian Indigenous Women's Network (Philippines); A-SEED [expansion unknown] (Australia); Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Institute for Policy Studies and Institute for Food and Development Policy (U.S.A.); Equipo Pueblo and Mexican Action Network on Free Trade (Mexico); Council of Canadians and Action Canada Network (Canada); and Ecological Action Network (Chile).

The NGO's, who are involved in development, environmental and peace issues, said they believed in the fostering of closer ties in the region.

However, the groups felt the current heavy pressure towards liberalisation through APEC was unhealthy and would result in "adverse effects for large sections of the region's population, especially the poor and the weaker countries."

The statement is a significant counter by citizen groups to the heavy lobbying efforts by some major countries, particularly the United States and Australia, to use the Osaka summit to push the APEC Forum towards becoming a free trade agreement (similar to the North America Free Trade Agreement between the United States, Canada and Mexico) or at least to hasten the pace of liberalisation among APEC countries.

Malaysia has taken a leading role in opposing these moves, and has been quietly backed by China, among others. Some countries (Japan, China, South Korea, Taiwan) also want to exclude agriculture from liberalisation datelines, to protect their farmers interests.

Developed countries that have big companies, such as the United States and Australia, that can compete more efficiently would like the Asian developing countries to open up their markets faster, so that these companies can increase their sales. Developing countries are worried that rapid liberalisation could cause local firms and farms to lose out to bigger foreign companies and lead to loss of livelihood.

The NGO's in their statement also proposed that APEC countries be allowed to exempt specific sectors from liberalisation, that the "investment principles" set up in 1994 remain non-binding, and that developing countries in APEC should not agree to speed up the implementation of their Uruguay Round obligations.

"Instead of pushing the liberalisation process even further, APEC leaders in Osaka should decide to slow down and pause," the groups said.

Instead, they should order detailed studies on the economic, social, and environmental impacts that the various liberalisation measures will have on each APEC country.

These studies should include the impact of different rates of tariff reduction on the imports, exports and domestic production of various sectors of each country; the impact of foreign investment liberalisation on the domestic market and on the balance of payments of each country.

The NGO's advised that until such studies are carried out, APEC developing countries should be very cautious of liberalisation.

They also warned of a real danger of the APEC process becoming dominated by a few strong countries, pushing their own agenda for their own commercial interests, whilst many developing countries are pushed along for more binding agreements to liberalise.

"This will most likely lead to a situation of benefits accruing to a few major countries, with less or no benefits to others, whilst many small or weak countries may have to endure losses," the statement concluded.

Noting that APEC was originally intended to be only a loose forum, the NGO's criticised subsequent moves by some strong countries to pressurise others to agree to compulsory liberalisation through declarations or agreements that are increasingly binding, and for APEC to eventually be a free trade area.

The NGO's said they opposed these moves as APEC countries are at different stages of development. "Countries that are smaller or weaker require more time to build up their domestic enterprises to be able to withstand the full weight of competition from bigger foreign firms," the statement said.

"If weaker countries are rushed to open their economies before their domestic firms and farms are strong enough to compete with the bigger foreign firms, they will suffer serious adverse effects."

The NGO's believe that through import liberalisation, products and services of the strong countries would take over the markets of developing countries and eventually control their economies. As local firms lose business to foreign enterprises, there is likely to be a net loss of jobs.

In many countries, rapid agricultural liberalisation may also lead local farmers to lose their livelihoods as their products are threatened by cheaper imports.

"To prevent serious economic and social dislocation, and retain a minimum degree of economic control, APEC developing countries are well justified in demanding that liberalisation be carried out gradually, in an unforced manner."

The NGO's were especially concerned by pressures to get APEC countries to rapidly liberalise foreign investments.

Whilst the 1994 Bogor Summit agreed only to "non-binding investment principles", there are now proposals to make them legally binding. The principles would also be strengthened, including giving foreign investors the right to establish themselves in all APEC countries, to be treated as favourably as local firms, and to operate without government regulation on profit repatriation and capital movements.

"Most APEC countries are still at the developing stage and many have weak domestic sectors," the NGO's pointed out. "The proposals for rapid liberalisation and granting almost total rights to foreign investors would rob these countries of the right to regulate the inflow of foreign firms, their operations and financial impacts.

"The governments and people of these countries would cede control over a critical and strategic part of their economic decision making. The road would be opened for overwhelming foreign control of these economies."

APEC leaders were thus urged to reject the proposals to get APEC to provide such absolute rights to foreign investors, or to convert the present non-binding investment principles into a legal agreement.

The NGO's also opposed proposals by the APEC Eminent Persons' Group that developing countries cut by half the period to implement their Uruguay Round commitments on intellectual property rights and investment measures, and to double the speed in reducing subsidies.

Agreeing to this would double the already great difficulties faced by developing countries to adjust their policies to fit the Uruguay Round's disciplines.

"To cut the already short grace period given to developing countries to implement the Round's decisions would lead to greater dislocation. APEC would then be imposing unfair burdens on the weaker countries for the benefit of the strong."

In conclusion, the statement urged APEC officials and leaders not to feel pressured to give more concessions as a "down-payment" to "prove their commitment" to the 1994 Bogor Declaration.

"APEC should exist to serve the needs of the members, especially the smaller and weaker countries. These countries should not feel obliged to 'prove their commitment' to rapid liberalisation since there is no evidence this process will be of equitable benefit to all, and since there are reasons to believe that some countries may lose whilst others gain."

Draft of ASEAN Weapons-Free Zone Pact Noted

BK2511151295 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Nov 95 p A3

[Report by Rita Patiyasewi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Southeast Asia nuclear weapons free zone treaty moved closer to reality yesterday, with only some minor points remaining before signing by Asean officials next month, a Foreign Ministry press statement said yesterday.

An Asean working group has been discussing the zone of peace, freedom and neutrality and the Southeast Asia nuclear weapons free zone (Seanwfz) treaty at a four-day meeting in Jakarta ending today.

Remaining issues to be considered include the question of whether foreign aircraft and vessels should or should not carry nuclear weapons into a nuclear-free Southeast Asia, including port calls which are permitted by the treaty.

Arizal Effendi, the Indonesian Foreign Ministry's director for Asia-Pacific affairs, said on Thursday that foreign ships and aircraft would be guaranteed freedom and right of innocent passage in accordance with the 1982 United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (Unclos).

"They are free to traverse through the region as long as they do so in accordance with the provisions laid down in the 1982 Unclos," he said.

Last week Asean held consultations with the United States, China, France and the UK, while Russia sent written comments.

According to a senior official, Asean tried to accommodate suggestions made by the nuclear power states.

The U.S. concerns were about the 'freedom and rights of innocent passage' which it has long enjoyed in the region. Its nuclear powered submarines often used the Indonesian Ombai-Wetar Straits as a short-cut to Japan.

The official said China was unhappy with the terminology of exclusive economic zones (EEZ) and continental shelf because it feels it could cause serious concerns among its neighbors.

"Thailand, in order to pacify China, proposed that nothing in the treaty that would prejudice the rights of sovereign claims could be put in the protocol," he said.

Asean also tried to be more specific on the issue of 'dumping' because some countries raised the question on what would happen if a vessel leaked nuclear material during a port call.

They agreed to adopt the text in Article 1 of the 1982 Unclos which states that "disposal does not include the disposal of wastes or other matter incidental to, or derived from the normal operations of vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea and their equipment, other than wastes or other matter transported by or to vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea, operating for the purpose of disposal of such matter or derived from the treatment of such wastes or other matter on such vessels."

It also does not include "placement of matter for a purpose other than the mere disposal thereof, provided that such placement is not contrary to the aims of this convention."

Customs Officials From ASEAN Countries Meet

BK2811092895 Hanoi VNA in English 0723 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 28 — The AFTA agreement (ASEAN free trade area) is taking more concrete shape with customs officials from ASEAN countries beginning a two-day meeting here yesterday.

Officials from the seven countries that currently comprise ASEAN: Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia and Brunei, will work on regularising customs procedures on similar lines in all member countries.

They will also work on a customs agreement to be signed by ASEAN nations.

Under the AFTA agreement, member countries will reduce tariffs on a range of goods by the year 2003 with Vietnam, the newest entrant, given an extension of three years.

ASEAN membership is expected to expand in the not-too-distant- future with the inclusion of Burma, Cambodia and Laos.

Japan

'Sources' Quoted on Aviation Talks in Washington

OW2911024395 Tokyo KYODO in English 0230 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, Nov. 28 KYODO — The United States and Japan on Tuesday [28 November] began a scheduled three days of talks on reviewing the bilateral aviation treaty, Japanese sources said.

The Japanese side presented proposals for limiting the number of destinations and flights permitted for U.S. airlines flying beyond Japan in a bid to narrow the gap with what Japan views as far more favorable "beyond rights" granted to U.S. airlines under the treaty, the sources said.

The U.S. side, aiming at wider access to Asian destinations via Japan, called for mutually freeing all restrictions under its global "open sky" initiative.

The two nations agreed to begin negotiations to review the aviation treaty when they reached an accord in July through cabinet-level talks on the issue of Japan rejecting a request by the U.S. carrier Federal Express Corp. for expanding its Pacific routes via Japan.

Under the July accord, Japan endorsed the request in exchange for the U.S. side's agreeing to review the aviation treaty with a target of finding a solution by next spring and also authorizing Japanese flights to Chicago and some other U.S. cities from Kansai International Airport near Osaka.

the first negotiations were held in Tokyo in September without making much progress.

Clinton's Delay Not To Affect Bases Issue

OW2911071095 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 28 Nov 95 Evening Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] As chances have increased for Japan and the United States to agree on an April rescheduling for President Clinton's visit to Japan, the government is today busy coordinating details with the U.S. side on handling the schedule. The government believes that despite the delay, there will be no adverse impact on working level activities relating to the U.S. military bases' issue in Okinawa prefecture, as government efforts on this are already under way. However, there is concern among some observers that the delay in the announcement of the "joint statement" concerning the redefinition of the Japan-U.S. security pact may affect bilateral relations.

Responding to reporters questions earlier today, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama indicated that Clinton's visit to Japan may be postponed to April, saying: "Because we want the President to make a state visit, his trip may be postponed (until April). This is still being coordinated."

However, concerning the possible adverse impact on the issue of reducing U.S. military bases on Okinawa, Murayama emphasized: "It will not be affected. The two nations agreed to further discuss and study the Okinawa issue in talks with U.S. Vice President Al Gore."

Murayama Orders Ota To Sign Land Leases

OW2911091995 Tokyo KYODO in English 0853 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO — Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama issued an "order" Wednesday [29 November] to Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota to sign documents needed to force unwilling local landowners to renew the lease of their land to U.S. bases, the top government spokesman said.

Murayama gave the command after receiving a letter from Ota the previous day, in which the governor of the southernmost Japanese prefecture refused to follow a milder "recommendation" issued by the prime minister, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka told reporters.

Ota has repeatedly said he would not follow either of the administrative advice or order, backed by Okinawa people's wishes to reduce U.S. bases there following the Sept. 4 rape of an Okinawa schoolgirl for which three U.S. servicemen are on trial.

When Ota relates his rejection of the order to Murayama, the only way the prime minister can enable the renewal of the land leases is to sign the documents himself after suing the governor and winning the case in court.

Of the 35,000 square meters of sites Murayama ordered Ota to sign for instead of their 35 antimilitary landowners, the lease contract on a 226 square meter lot at a U.S. Marine communications facility in the village of Yomitan will expire at the end of next March.

If Murayama does not sign in time, land use by the U.S. military would become illegal.

Okinawa Makes Requests at Working-Level Talks

OW2911100895 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 29 Nov 95 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Tokyo — The secretariat of the "Consultative Council on the Okinawa U.S. Military Bases Issue" held a working-level meeting at the Prime Minister's Official Residence on the afternoon of 28

November. Okinawa Vice Governor Masanori Yoshimoto and other officials briefed the government on five requests, including base realignment and reduction and a review of the Status of Forces Agreement [SOFA], which Governor Masahide Ota submitted to the first meeting of the Consultative Council held on 25 November.

In response, the government agreed to study these requests and to discuss mainly the SOFA issue at the next secretariat meeting, scheduled for 15 December.

At the next meeting, the government intends to discuss working out plans for improving SOFA implementation. On the other hand, the government intends to obtain an agreement from the U.S. side concerning improving the framework for the tripartite meeting, and to make an official decision soon.

In addition to requesting base realignment and reduction and a review of the SOFA agreement, the prefectural government also asked for an early agreement on controlling noise pollution, measures to prevent crimes by U.S. military personnel, and for the activation of the tripartite meeting operations. In addition, as high-priority issues, the prefectural government requested that three pending cases be resolved and the Futennma Airfield be returned.

The government did not make any concrete proposals. However, regarding the prefectural government's request for a 10-item review of the SOFA agreement, the government stated: "There are issues that greatly influencing people's daily lives that can be solved at an early time," citing such issues as the license plates used by U.S. military vehicles. The government's proposals predicated on improving [SOFA] implementation are expected to be submitted at the next meeting.

The prefectural government originally requested that officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA] be present at the tripartite meeting, but later indicated its understanding that officials from the Cabinet Councillor's Office on External Affairs [CCOEA] would participate. It was agreed that details of consultations will be reported to the Joint Japan-U.S. Committee.

The government asked that for a prioritized list of bases whose return has been requested. In response, Vice Governor Yoshimoto indicated that a list would be worked out in January or later, commenting that "the list will not be worked out until we can be certain of the Joint Japan U.S. Committee's consultations on cases that should be solved by year's end and of the outcome of the Japan-U.S. summit talks."

After the meeting, Vice Governor Yoshimoto met with reporters at the prefectural government's office in Tokyo. Speaking highly of the secretariat meeting, Yoshimoto said: "A stage has been created for Okinawa to clearly state its views to the government."

Representing Okinawa at the first meeting were Vice Governor Yoshimoto and Policy Coordinator Choko Takayama. Representing the government side were: Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Teijiro Furukawa; CCOEA Director Hiroshi Hirabayashi; Masaki Orita, director general of MOFA's North American Affairs Bureau; Councilor Masayuki Fujishima from the Defense Agency (representing Masahiro Akiyama, director general of the Defense Policy Bureau); and Masuo Morodomi, director general of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency.

Ota Asks Limits to Scope of Security Treaty

OW2911101195 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN in Japanese 28 Nov 95 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] As of 27 November, the Japanese Government has firmed up its plan to use the terms "Japan-U.S. Security Treaty" and "Japan-U.S. security arrangement" on a case-by-case basis from now on.

In a recent meeting with Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota requested that the scope of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty not be expanded beyond "Japan and the Far East." While the central government's plan is in response to the concern voiced by the Okinawa Prefectural Government, it is also a "desperate attempt" to justify a contradictory argument that the Japan-U.S. security arrangement is contributing to peace and stability in the world. However, the government's plan to use the terms "arrangement" and "treaty" on a case-by-case basis could instead arouse further suspicion in Okinawa.

The Japan-U.S. Security Treaty's Articles IV (requiring Japan and the United States to consult together from time to time regarding the treaty's implementation) and VI (granting U.S. forces the use of facilities and areas in Japan) stipulate that the treaty applies to "Japan and the Far East." Ever since the "Diet session on the security treaty" [Anpo Kokkai] in 1960, the government's unified stance has been that the term "Far East" refers to "the vicinity of Japan, north of the Philippines."

In line with Ota's request, Murayama is likely to seek Clinton's confirmation that the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty applies to "Japan and the Far East" when the two meet as scheduled next January, and the President is expected to agree with this.

All this talk is "aimed at the Japanese public." Although it may create the impression that the scope of U.S. forces' activity would be limited, the Foreign Ministry maintains that "this is unavoidable" in order to resolve Okinawa's concern.

Meanwhile, the Japanese and U.S. Governments have already agreed that, in a joint statement to be issued when Clinton visits Japan, they will announce their common understanding that the "Japan-U.S. security arrangement" contributes to maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and, in turn, the whole world.

This means that the two governments will confirm the bilateral security arrangement in fact is serving as an "Asian security arrangement" and a "world security arrangement." It is considered that, in his meeting with Murayama, Ota tried to ensure the scope of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty would not be widened because he was concerned over just such a development.

U.S. Marine Corps Resumes Live-Fire Exercises

OW2911010395 Tokyo KYODO in English
0056 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, Nov. 29 KYODO — The U.S. Marine Corps stationed in Okinawa Prefecture resumed live fire artillery exercises at Camp Hansen on Wednesday [29 November] for the first time in three months.

The drills, often protested by local residents, have not been held since the rape of an Okinawa schoolgirl in September, for which three U.S. servicemen are currently on trial. Outraged citizens have demanded a reduction of the U.S. military presence in the island prefecture since.

The Marine Corps' Public Affairs office in Okinawa said the exercises are normally conducted on three or four days each month throughout the year.

"In consideration for the feelings of the people of Okinawa, we have exercised self-restraint, but as a military unit, we must also carry out the necessary training," the office said.

The previous live fire drill had been scheduled for Sept. 18-21, but Maj. Gen. Wayne Rollings, commander of the Marines in Okinawa, canceled the exercises as an expression of regret over the rape incident.

The artillery exercises firing live ammunition across prefectural highway 104 and against the hills on the camp grounds require that a 3.7-kilometer stretch of the highway be closed during the drill.

Residents living near the base have demanded an end to the drills, saying they are inconvenienced by the closing of the highway and that they fear the shelling may trigger fires in the hills, landslides and other damage to nature.

Wednesday's drills were the 10th this year and the 163rd since 1973.

Last week, informed sources said U.S. Forces Japan had sounded out the Japanese Government about moving the artillery exercises from Okinawa to the Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) base in Higashifuji, Shizuoka Prefecture, central Japan.

Tokyo, however, reportedly wants several GSDF bases to share the burden of hosting the live ammunition drills.

Some 100 local residents held a rally in front of Camp Hansen, protesting the resumption of the live fire artillery exercises.

"The U.S. military resumed the exercises because it was reassured of its use of the Okinawa bases by Prime Minister (Tomiichi) Murayama's decision to invoke the power of the law (against Okinawa's refusal to lease land to the U.S. forces)," Hiroaki Yoshizawa, a member of a local antinuclear weapons group, told the rally.

The participants of the rally later marched around a nearby area, chanting, "Stop the Barbaric, Murderous Exercise."

Drill Resumption Provokes Protest

OW2911050295 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 29 Nov 95 Morning Edition p 23

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There is strong outrage against the live-fire exercises across Prefectural Highway 104, which will resume on 29 November, in the local community in Kin Town, and among democratic and peace groups. In coordination with the firing exercises, joint Japan-U.S. military exercises, code named "Beach Crest 96," are being held at the training ground in the northern part of Okinawa Island and on Ie Island, almost turning Okinawa into a battlefield.

Amid the attention focused on the reorganization and reduction of military bases after the rape incident, there is a great outcry and a widespread expression of concern against resuming military activities. "Exercises should be suspended until the relocation issue is resolved." Various organizations are braced to wage strongest-ever protest actions to strengthen the antibase movement.

At Kin, where firing exercises will be conducted, the local residents protest strongly. Mayor Katsuhiro Yoshida pointed out that "the exercises also have serious adverse effects on administration." The town government will patrol the exercise sites, and may record noise levels when the need arises. It is therefore required to take up "negative administrative duties" which have nothing to do with serving the town people.

At the Blue Beach training ground in Kin, landing exercises by the U.S. forces, believed to be coordinated with the Beach Crest 96 beginning on 28 November, are being held. U.S. military helicopters hover in the area.

Yoshida stated: "At a time the discontinuation of live-fire exercises is being demanded, the holding of intensive exercises will make the relocation of the training ground, which is already meeting great difficulties, even more difficult. Exercises should be stopped until the three pending issues are resolved. We hope they give us back our green mountains." [passage omitted on comments by low-level officials]

Nosaka Expresses Displeasure

OW2911084595 Tokyo KYODO in English
0830 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO — Japan's top government spokesman expressed displeasure Wednesday [29 November] over the resumption of U.S. artillery drills using live ammunition in the southernmost Japanese prefecture of Okinawa.

"It is not a good sign...[ellipses as received] I have to express my displeasure," Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka told a regular press conference in the afternoon.

In the morning, the U.S. Marine Corps stationed in Okinawa Prefecture resumed live artillery exercises at Camp Hansen for the first time since the rape of an Okinawa schoolgirl in September, for which three U.S. servicemen are currently on trial.

The firing of live ammunition across Prefectural Highway 104 and into the hills on the camp grounds requires that a 3.7-kilometer stretch of the highway be closed during the drill.

Residents living near the base have demanded an end to the drills, saying they are inconvenienced by the closing of the highway and that they fear the shelling may trigger fires in the hills, landslides and other damage to the environment.

Nosaka said he thinks the government should study an earlier proposal to have the maneuvers held in rotation at five Japanese sites suitable for the exercises, in response to the opposition of Okinawa people against the drills.

Industry Reluctant To Import Alaskan Oil

OW2911000795 Tokyo KYODO in English
2308 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, Nov. 28 KYODO — U.S. President Bill Clinton signed into law Tuesday [28 November] a bill for lifting a 22-year-old ban on exports of Alaskan oil in supporting a move that may help reduce the trade deficit with Japan.

"Lifting the ban on exporting Alaskan north slope crude oil was one of the administration's top energy policy priorities," White House spokesman Mike McCurry said.

"It's good fiscal policy, sensible economic policy and, most important, sound energy policy," he said.

The bill also includes new incentives to stimulate oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico and allows for the sale of the Alaskan power administration.

According to a Department of Energy study last year, McCurry said, "this action would benefit U.S. oil producers, increase international trade and result in up to 2 billion dollars in increased federal, state and local royalty and tax payments."

The United States had previously banned exports of Alaskan oil as part of its measures to secure domestic oil supplies in response to the 1973 oil crisis.

The Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry has expressed interest in Alaskan oil for some years as one of the ways of correcting Japan's trade imbalance with the U.S.

Japan's oil industry, however, has shown reluctance to import Alaskan oil which is expected to be priced higher than Arabian oil.

DA Rejects U.S. Call for Military Support

OW2911065095 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 26 Nov 95 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] When tensions escalated over North Korea's [DPRK] alleged nuclear weapons development last April, the U.S. Forces in Japan [USFJ] inquired of the Defense Agency [DA] whether it would be possible to dispatch the Maritime Self-Defense Force's [MSDF] minesweepers in case of an armed conflict in the Korean peninsula. This was revealed on 25 November.

"Our Constitution does not acknowledge the right of collective self-defense." Rejecting the U.S. call based on this argument, the DA formulated an alternative "contribution plan" limiting its assistance only to offer information and logistic support.

"The use of the collective self-defense right" was a point at issue in the ruling party coordination over the review of "the National Defense Program Outline." They agreed on the need to clearly define its use as "unconstitutional" in the chief cabinet secretary's speech scheduled to be delivered when the review of the outline is approved.

According to a concerned Japan-U.S. source, the Seventh U.S. Fleet headquarters unofficially sounded out the DA on its intention to hold Japan-U.S military cooperation talks to prepare for an Korean peninsula emergency situation.

At the same time, the DA was informed that in case of a crisis, the U.S. Navy intends to deploy five aircraft carriers near the Korean peninsula — including the Independence (approximate full displacement 80,000 tons) which is stationed at Yokosuka. Stressing a possibility of North Korea's mining the seas, the U.S. Navy requested that the DA agree to discuss "the dispatch of MSDF minesweepers and anti-submarine aircraft such as P3C."

The DA rejected the U.S. call saying the nation's Constitution does not allow the use of a collective self-defense right. The U.S. Navy insisted that "deployment may be possible because the handling of a Korean peninsula crisis is also part of Japan's defense strategy." In reply, the DA explained "difficulties in acquiring a political consent," and obtained U.S. understanding.

Later, the Maritime Staff Office studied and drafted a plan to support the U.S. military within the boundary of the Constitution. For example, the DA plans to provide information regarding the Korean peninsula sea areas it collected through patrol activities within a radius of several hundreds kilometers from Japan.

According to the DA, the "contribution plan" was examined by the Joint Staff Council and the internal subdivision. Judging that it is possible to provide fuel, water, and electricity to U.S. military facilities adjacent to the bases of the Self-Defense Forces [SDF], they formulated the plan mainly to provide logistic support.

The U.S. Navy last August permanently stationed two minesweepers in Sasebo, Nagasaki prefecture. These vessels were originally deployed in Texas. As a senior DA official stated: "Realizing that the SDF cannot conduct mine-sweeping activities in the North and South Korean sea areas, the U.S. Navy decided to do it itself." He indicated a view that this is a result of the DA's rejection.

The U.S. Department of Defense revealed its policy to maintain 100,000 U.S. forces in East Asia — 47,000 out of which planned to be stationed in Japan. As a basis for this policy, Joseph Nye, U.S. assistance secretary of defense, stressed that "a clear danger exists in the Korean peninsula." Regarding the SDF contribution plan in a Korean peninsula crisis, Nye said at a U.S. House of Representative public hearing last October, "the SDF cannot fight with the U.S. forces because of the Constitution." He then added: "However, they can provide support to the U.S. forces' activities."

In 1991, the MSDF dispatched minesweepers to the Persian Gulf. After the Gulf war, the government assumed a stance that claimed, "the disposal of mines Iraq abandoned in the open sea does not count as the use of armed force."

MOF To Limit ODA Growth Rate to 3 Percent

OW2811142895 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 27 Nov 95 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] On 26 November, the Ministry of Finance [MOF] decided to limit the growth rate of official development assistance (ODA) to the lowest-ever level of around 3 percent in the initial budget bill for fiscal 1996. The ODA budget has been growing by an exceptionally high rate to demonstrate Japan's positive contribution to the international community; however, MOF considers the ODA budget should not be treated as a "sanctuary" any longer as Japan's fiscal condition is now the worst among the advanced nations. However, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA] and other concerned agencies oppose the MOF policy, insisting the 1996 ODA allotment must exceed the 1995 budget by at least 4 percent because the dollar-based ODA fund is declining in line with the plunge in the yen rate. Cabinet-level budget negotiations are likely to face rough going over a "revival" of the ODA growth rate close to 4 percent.

The 1995 initial budget allotted 1.161 trillion yen to the ODA budget. But the growth rate for 1995 was the lowest since 1976, when the government started statistics on the total amount of the ODA spending. As the ceiling for the 1996 ODA budget was set at 7 percent, MOFA made a budget request of the maximum amount allowed.

Nevertheless, MOF intends to drastically cut back the budget requests due to the fiscal crisis. In 1996, the government has to issue deficit-covering bonds worth more than 10 trillion yen. The MOF Budget Bureau noted: "Limited fiscal funds should be utilized to meet the most urgent needs, such as pump-priming measures and enrichment of research and development projects."

Japan has served as the world's largest aid provider for four consecutive years, but the United States, Germany, and other major advanced nations are cutting their aid programs. MOF therefore considers the "quantitative growth should be restricted by certain standards."

MOFA and the other aid-giving agencies, though, intend to seek additional allotments through cabinet-level negotiations, insisting: 1) steady ODA growth in 1996 is needed to fulfill an international pledge to offer $70-75 billion in ODA programs from 1993 to 1997; and 2) Japan's GDP-based ODA is still the 14th largest in the world (0.29 percent in 1994).

Tokyo Grants Aid to Developing Nations

Chile: 749 Million Yen

OW2711235395 Tokyo KYODO in English 2231 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO — Japan has provided a grant-in-aid of up to 749 million yen for Chile to help support efforts to protect the environment in the Latin American nation, according to the Foreign Ministry.

Japanese Ambassador to Chile Akira Sugino and Chile's acting Foreign Minister Mariano Fernandez exchanged notes on the assistance in Santiago on Monday [28 November], it said.

The money will be used to enable Chile's Environment Protection Center to pay for technical training and purchase necessary equipment to tackle air and water pollution and other environmental problems, the ministry said.

Bulgaria: Y8.04 Billion

OW2511050495 Tokyo KYODO in English 0416 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 25 KYODO — Japan will extend its first yen-based loans to Bulgaria in 20 years to help alleviate pollution caused by local plants discharging emissions and waste water beyond European Union standards, a government-affiliated aid group said Saturday [25 November].

The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund will sign contracts Monday for two untied loan commitments totaling 8.04 billion yen [Y]. The loans carry an interest rate of 2.7 percent per annum and are repayable over 30 years, with a 10-year grace period.

Under the deals, the organization will provide 5.96 billion yen to build exhaust gas and waste water treatment facilities at KCM SA [expansion unknown], a state-run copper and zinc refining company located in Plovdiv, 140 kilometers southeast of Sophia, OECF officials said.

The refiner emits sulfur dioxide and other kinds of flue gas, and gushes out waste water containing heavy metals such as lead.

The fund will also offer 2.08 billion yen for construction of similar environmental facilities at the Eliseina National Copper Refinery located in Eliseina, 50km northeast of the Bulgarian capital, the officials said.

Environmental experts fear waste water discharged from the plant could pollute the Danube River through a local tributary.

The OECF expects the planned facilities at the two plants will help them clear eu environmental standards, the officials noted.

The loans mark the OECF's fourth lending commitment to help spur the ongoing democratization process in east Europe. The fund has extended loans to Poland, Albania and Hungary since November 1990, according to the officials.

Kazakhstan: 7.2 Billion Yen

OW2811092895 Tokyo KYODO in English 0907 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO — Japan will provide a low-interest loan of 7.24 billion yen to Kazakhstan to help the former Soviet republic revamp its economy, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday [28 November].

Notes on the loan were exchanged in Almaty, the capital of the central Asian country, between Akira Matsui, Japan's ambassador there, and Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister Kasymzhomart Tokayev, the ministry said.

Japan will provide the 25-year untied loan with an interest rate of 3 percent per annum to the republic to fulfill a pledge made in April 1994, when Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbaev visited Tokyo, it said.

The aid will be used to improve railway infrastructure and increase transport capacity in Kazakhstan, the ministry said.

Zambia: Y838 Million

OW2811091595 Tokyo KYODO in English 0803 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO — Japan will give grant-in-aid of up to 838 million yen [Y] to zambia to help repair roads in its capital of Lusaka, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday [28 November].

Japan's Ambassador to Zambia Tadashi Masui and Lt. Gen. C.S. Tembo, who is Zambia's foreign minister, exchanged notes on the assistance in the city, the ministry said.

The sum will be used to improve the roads in Lusaka and raise the living standards of citizens in the metropolitan area, it said.

Ecuador: Y49.70 Million

OW2911042495 Tokyo KYODO in English
0148 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO — Japan has granted Ecuador economic aid worth 49.70 million yen to support cultural activities in the central American country, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday [29 November].

Notes on the cultural grant were exchanged in Quito on Tuesday between the Ecuadoran foreign minister and the Japanese ambassador to Ecuador, the ministry said.

The sum will be used to help the Ecuadoran national symphony orchestra purchase musical instruments and contribute to artistic activities in the country, it said.

Macedonia: Y550 Million

OW2911123295 Tokyo KYODO in English
1116 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO — Japan will provide a grant-in-aid of up to 550 million yen [Y] to Macedonia [former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia] to help improve medical services in the former Yugoslav Republic, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday [29 November].

Officials of the two countries exchanged notes on the economic assistance in Macedonia's capital of Skopje, the ministry said.

The aid will be used to finance the Macedonian Government's project to furnish new medical equipment to hospitals in Skopje, it said.

Syria: Y46 Billion

OW2911123495 Tokyo KYODO in English
0912 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO — Japan will provide a low-interest loan to Syria of up to 46.19 billion yen [Y] (about 462 million dollars) to help ensure its steady economic growth, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday [29 November].

It will be Japan's second yen loan to Syria. About four and a half years ago, Japan lent some 500 million dollars as part of its efforts to support some countries in the region amid the Persian Gulf crisis.

Notes on the yen-denominated official credit were exchanged in Damascus between Japanese Ambassador to Syria Tomio Uchida and 'Abd al-Rahim Subay'i, Syria's state minister for planning affairs, the ministry said.

Tokyo will provide the fresh 30-year untied loan with a grace period of 10 years and with most of the interest to held to a low annual rate of 2.7 percent to fulfill Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's pledge earlier this year in a meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

In September, Murayama visited Syria and four other Middle East nations — Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Israel and Jordan.

The loan will be used to build a thermal power plant in Al-Zara, some 200 kilometers north of the Syrian capital, to help ease a chronic power shortage and encourage economic activity in the country, the ministry said.

Murayama, Gaishi Hirayama on New Economic Plan

OW2911113095 Tokyo KYODO in English
1022 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO — A blue-ribbon government panel Wednesday [29 November] unveiled Japan's new economic plan for fiscal 1995-2000, calling for drastic efforts to reform economic and social structures to cope with the changing international business climate and pressing domestic issues such as Japan's rapidly aging population.

The plan, submitted by the Economic Council to Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama as Japan's economic scenario toward the 21st century, estimates the average annual economic growth for the five fiscal years from March 1996 at about 3 percent in real terms.

If Japan fails to promote deregulation and other structural reform efforts, however, the average growth of gross domestic product (GNP) for fiscal 1996-2000 will be limited to around 1.75 percent, the plan says.

In a statement, Murayama said, "It is necessary for Japan to tackle drastic structural reforms immediately and actively to open the door for medium- and long-term economic development toward the 21st century. The government will make utmost efforts to proceed with measures recommended by the council."

"It is essential for the government to gain the understanding and cooperation of the people in the process of promoting structural reforms," he said.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, who chairs the council, also stressed the importance of implementing the new economic plan.

At a news conference, Hiraiwa said, "Japan is now in an unstable transitional phase, facing standstills in politics, administration and economic activities. If Japan fails to carry out structural reform, it could be left all alone in the world economy."

"If Japan promotes structural efforts, it can attain the 3 percent growth target. But there is a possibility the jobless ratio will not fall amid such efforts," Hiraiwa said.

As future tasks to be discussed by the council, Hiraiwa cited fiscal restructuring and the burden of social security costs to be shouldered by the people.

The new plan, the 13th of its kind in the postwar era, will replace the current plan for fiscal 1992-1996 after it is formally adopted at a cabinet meeting Friday.

The GDP [gross domestic product] growth target of 3 percent is the lowest among the postwar economic plans. The new plan excludes fiscal 1995 from GDP growth estimates since there is a strong possibility of economic growth posting a very low level for the year.

Reflecting such trends as the shifting of industrial production overseas, the rapid aging of this society, declining birthrates, and the proliferation of sophisticated telecommunications technology, the new plan is giving greater priority to the quality of economic growth than mere growth rates.

Under the new plan, Japan will aim for economic vitality, a safe and peaceful society, and international harmony within its economic activities.

As a major pillar of the new economic plan, the council mapped out an action program for revitalizing Japanese industry and reforming its high-cost structure.

The action program calls for introducing specific cost-reduction targets into 10 sectors, including the distribution and energy industries, and aims at narrowing the gap between prices at home and abroad.

The new economic plan cites seven sectors as areas expected to enjoy growth in the future.

The seven are telecommunications, corporate services, job placement services, health, medical and welfare, leisure and living-related services, and housing and environment-related businesses.

The new economic plan also presents 32 specific social infrastructural improvement targets as a basis for improved living conditions and greater economic growth.

It calls on the government to raise the ratio of parks to living areas within walking distance to 100 percent by the beginning of the 21st century. In fiscal 1993, the ratio stood at 53 percent.

As targets for improving housing infrastructure, the new plan calls for an average floor space of 100 square meters per house and says construction costs should be reduced by one-third.

It also calls for government housing policy to enable people to own homes within one-hour commuting distances of their workplaces.

Under the current economic plan, the government has envisaged housing made available at prices within five times annual incomes. But the actual situation falls far short of the target, particularly in the Tokyo metropolitan area.

The new economic plan also says Japan should make efforts to peg average annual working hours at 1,800 and expand official development assistance for global contributions.

It also calls on the government to double its investment in research and development projects and support private-sector efforts to lay the groundwork for sophisticated telecommunications networks.

Highlights of New Economic Plan

*OW2911085795 Tokyo KYODO in English
0728 GMT 29 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO — The following are the highlights of Japan's new economic plan for fiscal 1995-2000 unveiled Wednesday [29 November] by the Economic Council.

— Japan should promote drastic reform of its economic and social structure, though the process may involve some pain for the people, such as employment adjustment.

— The Japanese economy should be, in principle, free of restrictions, with their introduction treated as exceptional cases. Social restrictions should be limited to minimum levels.

— The correction of the high-cost structure of Japanese industries and their revitalization are pressing tasks. Specific cost-reduction targets should be introduced into 10 sectors, including distribution and energy industries.

— Japan should improve social infrastructure for a safe society and economic development. It should aim at raising the average floor space of a house to 100 square meters and reducing construction costs by one-third.

— Japan should actively participate in the global community through reform of its economic and social system. It should improve market access and enlarge official development assistance.

— Under the new economic plan, Japan is estimated to post an average annual economic growth of about 3 percent for the fiscal years 1996 to 2000 in real terms and the unemployment rate of about 2.75 percent at the end of fiscal 2000.

— Without structural reform efforts, the average annual economic growth for fiscal 1996-2000 is estimated to be limited to 1.75 percent and the jobless rate is estimated to stand at 3.75 percent at the end of fiscal 2000.

Economic Plan Calls for Drastic Reform

OW2911075695 Tokyo KYODO in English
0718 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO — A government panel Wednesday [29 November] unveiled Japan's new economic plan for fiscal 1995-2000, calling for drastic efforts to reform economic and social structures to cope with the changing international business climate and pressing domestic issues such as Japan's rapidly aging population.

The plan, submitted by the Economic Council to Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama as Japan's economic scenario toward the 21st century, estimates the average annual economic growth for five fiscal years from April 1996 at about 3 percent in real terms.

If Japan fails to promote deregulation and other structural reform efforts, however, the average growth of gross domestic product (GDP) for fiscal 1996-2000 will be limited to around 1.75 percent, the plan says.

The new plan, the 13th of its kind in the postwar era, will replace the current plan for fiscal 1992-1996 after it is formally adopted at a cabinet meeting Friday.

The GDP growth target of 3 percent is the lowest among the postwar economic plans. The new plan excludes fiscal 1995 from GDP growth estimates since there is a strong possibility of economic growth posting a very low level for the year.

Reflecting such trends as the shifting of industrial production overseas, the rapid aging of this society, declining birthrates, and the proliferation of sophisticated telecommunications technology, the new plan is giving greater priority to the quality of economic growth than mere growth rates.

Under the new plan, Japan will aim for economic vitality, a safe and peaceful society, and international harmony within its economic activities.

As a major pillar of the new economic plan, the council mapped out an action program for revitalizing Japanese industry and reforming its high-cost structure.

The action program calls for introducing specific cost-reduction targets into 10 sectors, including the distribution and energy industries, and aims at narrowing the gap between prices at home and abroad.

The new economic plan cites seven sectors as areas expected to enjoy growth in the future.

The seven are telecommunications, corporate services, job placement services, health, medical and welfare, leisure and living-related services, and housing and environment-related businesses.

The new economic plan also presents 32 specific social infrastructural improvement targets as a basis for improved living conditions and greater economic growth.

It calls on the government to raise the ratio of parks to living areas within walking distance to 100 percent by the beginning of the 21st century. In fiscal 1993, the ratio stood at 53 percent.

As targets for improving housing infrastructure, the new plan calls for an average floor space of 100 square meters per house and says construction costs should be reduced by one-third.

It also calls for government housing policy to enable people to own homes within one-hour commuting distances of their workplaces.

Under the current economic plan, the government has envisaged housing made available at prices within five times annual incomes. But the actual situation falls far short of the target, particularly in the Tokyo metropolitan area.

The new economic plan also says Japan should make efforts to peg average annual working hours at 1,800 and expand official development assistance for global contributions.

It also calls on the government to double its investment in research and development projects and support private-sector efforts to lay the groundwork for sophisticated telecommunications networks.

Panel Eyes Public Fund for Deposit Insurance

OW2911092395 Tokyo KYODO in English
0824 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO — A Japanese Government panel is moving toward proposing the provisional use of taxpayers' money for a special fund to be created in Deposit Insurance Corp. to protect depositors at failed financial institutions, Finance Ministry officials said Wednesday [29 November].

A working group on the deposit insurance system under the Financial System Research Council generally accepted an idea to inject taxpayers' money into the fund, which it advised should be a provisional step for a five-year period and completely separate from the corporation's present reserve account, the officials said.

The council is an advisory body to the finance minister.

The group also broadly agreed that each depositor at bankrupt financial institutions should be guaranteed the interest on a deposit as well as the principal through Deposit Insurance Corp. With the maximum of 10 million yen altogether after a five-year grace period, the officials said.

It called for a limit on the level of officially guaranteed interest, however, so that depositors with financial institutions offering yields much higher than market rates would not benefit from such guarantees, they said.

At the same time, some members of the group pointed to practical difficulties in calculating accrued interest, they said.

For five years, the government is set to protect both interest and principal because of the difficulty in asking depositors to share the costs of liquidating a failed bank, they said.

Even in that case, depositors who would be guaranteed high interest retroactively will be asked to accept ordinary yields after a bank involved is liquidated and its deposits are transferred to another institution, they said.

Deposit Insurance Corp., set up in 1971 to guarantee deposits in case of financial failures, presently have the functions of offering grants to entities taking over failed banks and paying back principal up to 10 million yen per deposit. The latter, or so-called "payoff," has never been done since its establishment.

Under the present system, depositors who also have debts at a bank involved is to be paid back what remains after deducting the amount of debts from their deposit money.

The majority of the group members, however, called for reviewing what they termed a disadvantageous system to depositors so that those can get their deposits back despite the debts, the officials said.

MOF Reveals Draft Plan for Liquidating Jusen

OW2911153295 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 29 Nov 95 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The Finance Ministry's draft liquidation scheme for debt-ridden housing loan companies came to light on 28 November. According to the draft, billions of dollars in public funds are to be appropriated from the fiscal budget for the next year for a caretaker institution to take over debts held by seven housing loan firms. The funds will be given to the institution through a "special fund" set up within the Deposit Insurance Corporation. By incorporating the caretaker organ, the ministry plans to make it possible for the organ to issue bonds (government-guaranteed) to raise funds to write off loans to the housing loan companies.

To set up the caretaker institution, a minimum of 500 billion yen is needed. In addition to public funds from the fiscal budget, funds will also be provided by the Bank of Japan through the special fund in the form of special loans, and by financial institutions, including those affiliated with agricultural organizations. The caretaker organ will issue government-guaranteed bonds at low interest, which will be taken over by the commercial banks that founded the housing loan corporations and by agricultural financial institutions.

The ministry plans to apply public funds indirectly to liquidate the housing loan companies through the special fund, because it considers indirect injection of funds an easier way than direct injections to establish the principle of "maintaining the stability of the financial system." Such a measure requires revising the Deposit Insurance Act and at the same time making it possible to provide money from the special fund for the Japanese version of the Resolution Trust Corporation (RTC) that is likely to be set up to liquidate failed financial institutions.

The caretaker institution will try to recover debts in 10-15 years, according to the draft. As for unrecoverable debts, it seems that the commercial banks that founded the housing loan companies will probably be asked to abandon all their loans, amounting to approximately 3.5 trillion yen, to the housing loan companies, while the agricultural financial institutions will write off about 1-1.5 trillion yen of their loans.

Takemura Undecided on Fiscal Funds for Jusen

OW2911121595 Tokyo KYODO in English 0931 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO — Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura on Wednesday [29 November] reserved his judgment on whether taxpayers' money should be used for the liquidation of housing loan companies saddled with a heavy load of bad loans.

Takemura said at a news conference, "There are views that an injection of public money will be necessary as the case may be in dealing with the biggest bad loan problem... [ellipses as received] but I haven't come to any conclusions yet."

As a possible use of public funds, however, Takemura cited a proposal by his advisory body to set up a bridging vehicle to take over the housing lenders' bad loans and handle the time-consuming work of collecting and writing off such loans.

Takemura went on to say that he will judge the advisability of using public funds in the final stage of crafting a framework for the disposal of the housing loan companies.

The government has committed itself to drawing up the framework within this year.

Takemura said it is desirable that the parties concerned — founding banks and agricultural financial institutions — work out a solution in their ongoing negotiations.

But he pointed out the difficulty of solving the issue among the private concerns and the possibility of the government having to step in.

Whether to meet the farm minister "will depend on developments," Takemura said, adding, "I will make a judgment when the negotiations go further into the specifics."

Founding banks and farm-related financial institutions, the largest creditors to the housing loan companies, remain at odds over how to share the losses to be incurred from the liquidation of such companies.

The former have maintained that all lenders should bear the related costs in proportion to their lending, while the latter have insisted that founding banks should take the chief responsibility in liquidating the housing lenders.

Credit Unions May Require Bad Loan Declaration

OW2811120695 Tokyo KYODO in English
1137 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO — A governmental panel reached broad agreement Tuesday [28 November] that credit unions should be asked to disclose their outstanding balances of all bad loans within three years, Finance Ministry officials said.

A working group under the Financial System Research Council, an advisory body to the finance minister, reached the agreement to encourage credit unions to disclose bad loans, including restructured loans, earlier than the originally targeted five years, given recent moves by other financial institutions to expedite such disclosure, the officials said.

At present, credit unions are not required to disclose any kind of bad loan, though some voluntarily do so.

On the other hand, major commercial banks disclose loans to bankrupt borrowers and loans with interest payments in arrears for six months or more, and recently started unveiling restructured loans or loans with interest exempted or reduced in their midterm business reports for the April-September period.

At Tuesday's meeting, the working group also agreed to set up a special fund with a uniform premium rate under the present deposit insurance system to help finance the emergency disposal of failed financial institutions, the officials said.

However, it stopped short of endorsing the ministry's idea to separate the fund into two accounts — one for credit unions and the second for other financial institutions, they said.

Some panel members supported the idea because prefectural governments supervise credit unions and local public money was injected into disposal schemes for a recent series of failures of credit unions, they said.

Article Views New Defense Policy Outline

OW2811154195 Tokyo KYODO in English
1525 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO — The cabinet of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama approved Japan's new defense policy outline Tuesday [28 November], calling for stronger Japan-U.S. security ties as well as upgrading and streamlining of Japan's military machine, government officials said.

The cabinet endorsement came after the ruling coalition partners settled the dispute over whether arms trade ban principles should be stipulated in the outline.

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its coalition partners, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger], reached a compromise that Japan's arms embargo policy will be reaffirmed in an accompanying statement by the chief cabinet secretary rather than be included in the text of the outline, coalition officials said.

The agreement among the coalition parties on the issue removed the last obstacle to the formal endorsement of the new post-Cold War plan, which replaces the current 1976 National Defense Program outline.

The formalization of the outline came at an extraordinary cabinet meeting following approval by the Security Council.

The new defense policy platform underscores the importance of the U.S.-Japan bilateral security regime, while inheriting the long-standing concept of basic defense capability, meaning well-balanced, broad-ranging defense functions for the minimum necessary actions to counter aggression of various sorts.

The document also underlines the growing importance for Japan's security of disaster rescue missions, antiterrorism actions and participation in the peacekeeping operations of the United Nations.

Japan's military machine should be slimmer, but of higher quality, according to the outline.

The annexed table spells out a 10-year program for defense cutbacks, including a reduction from 180,000 to 145,000 in the fixed number of ground self-defense force troops and curtailments in tanks and fighter planes.

Four of the 12 divisions of the ground forces should be scaled down to brigades, while the numbers of destroyer fleets and interceptors should be reduced, according to the table.

Earlier in the day, the ruling coalition also agreed to call in the outline for endeavors toward "a world without nuclear weapons."

The final government draft of the new defense policy says Japan should make "international efforts for realistic and steady reductions in nuclear weapons, aimed at achieving a world without nuclear weapons," the officials said.

The change in the text came in response to strong requests by the SDP and Sakigake that the word "ultimate" should be removed from the expression "ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons" in the government's previous draft of the new policy.

But the squabble among the LDP, which objected to the insertion of the arms embargo principle in the text, and its coalition partners, which requested their inclusion, delayed the planned cabinet approval by several hours.

Also covered in the statement by Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka are the prohibition of resort to the right to collective self-defense and reductions in the U.S. bases in Okinawa.

The new defense tenets stress that the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty is "indispensable for Japan's own security and also for ensuring peace and stability in the surrounding areas," proclaiming that Japan will seek cooperation with the United States in a broader range of fields.

The document argues that "factors causing uncertainty and unpredictability, such as the tension on the Korean peninsula, still remain in the security conditions surrounding Japan," despite the ebbing threat from Russia.

It is appropriate for Japan to maintain the "basic defense capacity," the outline said.

Meanwhile, top government spokesman Nosaka released a statement saying Japan should maintain the traditional basic principles concerning arms exports, while efforts should be made to harmonize them with an effective implementation of the bilateral security treaty.

The three principles are tenets that the Japanese Government "should continue to inherit," Chief Cabinet Secretary Nosaka said at a press conference after an extra cabinet meeting adopted the new defense program.

The statement says, "Concerning the three principles on weapons exports, we intend to maintain our basic philosophy of avoiding international conflicts, while harmonizing this with effective implementation of the Japan-U.S. security system through beefing up wide-ranging mutual exchanges in the fields of equipment and technology."

It also stipulates that the scope of the bilateral security setup not be expanded beyond the far east and pledges to promote reductions of U.S. bases in the southernmost Japanese prefecture of Okinawa.

Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota has stepped up requests for a cutback in U.S. bases in his prefecture after a local schoolgirl was raped in early September, allegedly by three U.S. servicemen.

In a meeting Friday with Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, who also heads the SDP, Ota requested that the scope of the security treaty not be expanded from the current level.

Under the security treaty, the U.S. military is allowed to use land and facilities in Japan for security of Japan and the Far East.

The United States, however, has already used its bases in Okinawa and other parts of Japan as footholds of its military activities beyond the Far East — most notably the Middle East.

Ota fears that U.S. bases in Okinawa will be beefed up, or remain forever if the security treaty is expanded. About 75 percent of U.S. bases in Japan are situated in Okinawa prefecture although the region accounts only for 0.6 percent of Japan's total land area.

'Gist' of New Defense Policy Outline Released

OW2811144795 Tokyo KYODO in English 1426 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO — The following is the gist of Japan's new defense policy outline approved Tuesday [28 November] by the cabinet of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama.

— The size and functions of Japan's defense forces should be streamlined, while their quality is enhanced for handling a variety of situations.

— Joint military studies, drills and training by Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) and U.S. forces should be expanded to buttress the bilateral security regime, for active contributions to peace and stability internationally.

— The Ground Self-Defense Force should keep at least one strategic unit of mobile troops as well as divisions and brigades. Some of the troops should be organized by reserve SDF personnel.

— The Maritime Self-Defense Force should always keep at least one escort flotilla and one fleet escort force as a mobile naval vessel unit.

— The Air Self-Defense Force should keep an air control and warning wing for round-the-clock surveillance or Japan's entire airspace, fighter squadrons to react to aerial invasions, and support fighter squadrons against land invasions.

Table of New, Old Defense Program Outlines

OW2811151395 Tokyo KYODO in English
1447 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO — The followings are a table describing the main difference between old and new national defense program outlines

	OLD	NEW
Ground Self-Defense Force		
Self-Defense Personal Quota	180,000	160,000
		(standing reserve 145,000)
		(preparatory reserve 15,000)
Basic Units		
Units Deployed Regionally in Peacetime	12 divisions	8 divisions
Maritime Self-Defense Force		
Basic Units		
Antisubmarine Surface Ship Units		
(Regional District Units)	10 divisions	7 divisions
Minesweeper Units	2 flotillas	1 flotillas
Land-Based Antisubmarine Aircraft Units	16 squadrons	13 squadrons
Main Equipment		
Antisubmarine Surface Ships	60 ships	50 ships
Combat Aircraft	220 aircraft	170 aircraft
Air Self-Defense Force		
Basic Units		
Air Control And Warning Units	28 groups	8 groups
Interceptor Units	10 squadrons	9 squadrons
Main Equipment		
Combat Aircraft	430 aircraft	400 aircraft

Takemura Comments on New Defense Plan

OW2811155495 Tokyo KYODO in English
1527 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO — Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura said Tuesday [28 November] that the new defense policy outline approved by the cabinet shows Japan's forward-looking stance on the reduction of defense spending.

The Finance Ministry will work out a defense budget for the next fiscal year "based on the outline's principles that aim at an effective and compact defense in the post-Cold War era," Takemura told a press conference, held after an extraordinary cabinet meeting on the issue.

The cabinet of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama approved the new defense policy outline after the three ruling coalition parties reached a compromise over a gap in their positions on Japan's arms export principles.

The compromise provided for the arms embargo policy to be reaffirmed in an accompanying statement by the chief cabinet secretary, rather than its inclusion in the text of the outline itself.

Takemura said that even through the policy is not included in the outline, it is equivalent to the government's policy.

Defense Budget Request for FY96 Exceeds Ceiling

OW2911130495 Tokyo KYODO in English
1246 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO — The Defense Agency's budget request for fiscal 1996 has surpassed the imposed ceiling because of the yen's recent downturn, posting a 3.4 percent growth from the current year's outlay, the agency reported Wednesday [29 November] to the ruling coalition.

The Finance Ministry, however, immediately made clear that it would not allow any budget growth over the ceiling for defense spending, which has been set at 2.9 percent.

The agency said the budget request it submitted to the Finance Ministry at the end of August was calculated at an exchange rate of 90 yen to the dollar.

At the current rate of about 100 yen a dollar, however, the total budget the agency is seeking is worth some 18 billion yen more than the figure three months ago, it said.

When additional spending of 4.5 billion yen for Japan's increased financial contributions to the U.S. forces stationed in Japan and the planned peacekeeping mission of the Self-Defense Forces in the Golan Heights are counted in, the total budget for the next year should increase by 22.5 billion yen from its original request, according to the agency.

The agency requested in August some 4.86 trillion yen in defense spending for the year starting in April 1996, up 2.9 percent from the current year's outlay.

The rate of defense budget growth requested by the agency equals the ceiling on its budget request imposed by the ruling coalition.

The agency's request for the extra is likely to meet strong opposition also from the Social Democratic Party, which is calling for cut-backs in part of the defense outlays.

Article Views NFP's Defense Policy Outline

OW2811144095 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 27 Nov 95 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The full text of the "Outline of Security Policies for the New Century" worked out by the New Frontier Party [NFP] was released on 26 November. The outline was made by a league of NFP Diet members concerned with security affairs (chairman: former Defense Agency Director-General Kazuo Aichi). The outline says that use of the "collective self-defense right" — which the government sees as intolerable — can be tolerated and that it is necessary to let the U.S. military use bases of the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] as part of measures to beef up the Japan-U.S. security arrangement and increase the "sympathy budget." The NFP plans to announce the outline on 27 November.

The outline clearly notes the necessity of strengthening the "Japan-U.S. security arrangement" as a pillar of Japan's security policies.

As important tasks to be carried out for the time being, the outline proposes to 1) tolerate use of the collective self-security right; 2) let the U.S. military flexibly use SDF bases; 3) increase "sympathy budgets," such as allowances for Japanese employees working on U.S. military bases; and 4) conclude as early as possible an acquisition and cross-servicing agreement (ACSA) designed to supply such goods as fuel to the U.S. military forces.

As for the collective self-defense right, the outline stresses that the government should decide on tolerating use of the collective self-defense right within the "sphere of necessity" and under limited conditions, with the situation in the Korean peninsula in mind.

Panel Falls Into 'Confusion' Over Religious Law

OW2811144695 Tokyo KYODO in English 1422 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO — The Diet's special panel on revising the country's religious law fell into confusion Tuesday [28 November] amid tension caused by an opposition attempt to block the ruling parties' demand to summon key religious figures to give formal Diet testimony.

More than 100 opposition members massed in a bid to block the chairman of the special panel House of Councillors, Man Sasaki, from convening a session to handle a request from the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), one of the ruling coalition partners, to issue the summons.

The LDP are demanding that Daisaku Ikeda, honorary chairman of the largest buddhist lay organization Soka Gakkai, its president Einosuke Akiya and other key religious figures, be summoned to testify before the Diet in connection with the planned revision of the religious corporations law.

At an informal meeting of the special committee, members of the ruling coalition — the LDP, the Social Democratic Party and New Party Sakigake — urged the panel to vote Tuesday on schedules for the summoning and necessary public hearings.

The Heiseikai parliamentary group, including the major opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), was upset by the move, and began picketing in a corridor of the Diet building to prevent the LDP's Sasaki and other panel members from entering the panel chamber.

The bill to tighten control over religious organizations was drawn up by the tripartite ruling coalition following a series of crimes allegedly committed by the doomsday cult group Aum Shinrikyo.

The special upper house panel opened debate Monday on the government-proposed bill, which was passed by the House of Representatives on Nov. 13 in tandem with a bill to extend the current Diet session by 32 days until Dec. 15.

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama of the SDP reiterated that the government does not plan to change its long-held stance that political activities by religious groups do not infringe on the constitutional principle of the separation of the state and religion.

"Politicians are free to express their understanding (of the constitution) based on their own judgments, but the government has a unified view on the matter and has decided to firmly stick to it," Murayama told the upper house special committee.

But he said the government would study the matter after hearing experts on constitutional law.

Shinshinto Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa denounced the attempt to summon the key religious figures as "high-handed," saying, "if the Diet permits such a tribunal-like case, this will lead to the collapse of our parliamentarian democracy."

Shinshinto claims the bill is politically motivated and aims to deal a blow to Soka Gakkai, which supports Shinshinto.

Shinshinto was formed in December 1994 through a merger of nine opposition parties, including Komeito, which had the solid backing of Soka Gakkai.

Political analysts say Soka Gakkai played a large role in Shinshinto's success in the July upper house poll.

Panel Head Dealing With Religious Groups Resigns

OW2911104995 Tokyo KYODO in English
0936 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO — The chairman of a House of Councillors special panel set up to deal with religious groups resigned Wednesday [29 November] for health reasons amid a row over a government-sponsored bill to revise the law governing religious organizations.

The resignation of Man Sasaki of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) came a day after more than 100 opposition members massed in a bid to block Sasaki from convening a session to vote on an LDP proposal that key religious figures be summoned for Diet testimony. They include Daisaku Ikeda, honorary chairman of Soka Gakkai, a huge lay Buddhist group that supports the main opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party).

Shinshinto has been opposed to the bill to rewrite the law on religious groups, saying that it is politically motivated with a view to denting the political clout of Soka Gakkai.

There is speculation that the resignation of Sasaki might have been attributed to a gap between him and other senior LDP upper house members over whether to summon Ikeda and other religious figures.

The upper house panel named Hiroyuki Kurata, also an LDP member, as a successor to Sasaki, but political analysts said it remains uncertain whether the panel could vote on the LDP proposal for Diet testimony by key religious figures.

Forum Proposes Launching New Party by 20 Jan

OW2911145895 Tokyo KYODO in English
1409 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO — A preparatory forum for launching a new "liberal" party, consisting mainly of Social Democratic Party [SDP] members, decided Wednesday [29 November] a convention to inaugurate the new party should be held by around Jan. 20, forum officials said.

The officials said the convention would follow the announcement of the new party's platform Dec. 16 or 18.

The forum has been unsuccessfully courting New Party Sakigake [Harbinger] and other center-to-left political blocs as possible partners in the new party project and the timing of the meetings is based on the assumption that the new party will initially be composed mainly of SDP members.

Sakigake is the smallest component of the ruling coalition with the SDP and the Liberal Democratic Party.

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, who also heads the SDP, is backing the plan under which the party would dissolve itself and merge with the other parties to form the new party.

The SDP has been toying with the idea of forming a new liberal party in hopes of improving its chances of winning future elections.

Lower House Member Otani Submits Resignation

OW2911042195 Tokyo KYODO in English
0347 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nagoya, Nov. 29 KYODO — An independent House of Representatives member accused of helping his supporters evade taxes submitted a letter of resignation to parliament Wednesday [29 November].

Tadao Otani, 60, submitted the letter to lower house Speaker Takako Doi.

The lower house will discuss whether to accept his resignation Thursday, parliament sources said. His resignation is likely to be approved at the plenary session Friday, the sources said.

In April, Otani was sentenced by the Nagoya District Court to a prison term of two and a half years, suspended for five years, for violating the Income Tax Law and the Political Funds Control Law.

Both Otani and the prosecutors are appealing to a higher court against the decision.

Otani was accused of issuing fabricated receipts of political donations to his 72 supporters to help them evade taxes totaling 55 million yen and of personally evading taxes of 1.2 million yen from 1990 to 1992.

He was elected to the lower house for the first time in 1993 on the ticket of the now-defunct Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), but left the party in January last year after the financial scam was first discovered.

Agency Reports Record-High Jobless Rate

OW2811005595 Tokyo KYODO in English
0026 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO — Japan's seasonally adjusted jobless rate stayed at a record high 3.2 percent for the fifth consecutive month in October, with higher jobless rates seen among young workers, a government agency said Tuesday [28 November].

The Management and Coordination Agency said the 3.2 percent figure represented 2.14 million jobless people. The ratio was the highest since 1953.

The unemployment rate for men hit its highest level since 1953 at 3.2 percent — up 0.1 percentage point from the previous month — while that for women fell by 0.1 point to 3.3 percent, the agency said.

The jobless rate for workers in the 15 to 24 age bracket came to 5.6 percent out of 8.81 million workers in the category, while that for those in the 25 to 34 age group amounted to 4.2 percent of 13.43 million workers, the agency said.

This means that Japan had 490,000 jobless people aged 15-24 in October, while 560,000 aged 25-34 were out of work, it said.

Japan's increasingly severe employment situation "has demonstrated its effects especially among relatively young workers," an agency official said.

"Many young people cannot obtain high-paying jobs as business corporations' willingness to recruit them has generally remained low," he said.

In a separate report released by the Labor Ministry on Tuesday, the seasonally adjusted ratio of job offers to job seekers, an indicator of demand for labor, improved fractionally to 0.61 from the preceding month's 0.60, meaning there were 61 job offers for every 100 applicants in October.

The preceding month's 0.60 represented the lowest level since 1986, when the Japanese economy was going through a recession induced by a plunge in the profitability of exports as a result of the yen's rise.

The October jobless figure was up 7.5 percent, or 150,000, from the year-earlier level, the agency said.

The number of jobholders in October edged up 0.2 percent, or 160,000, to 64.96 million, it said.

The agency official also noted that the number of newly hired people with employment contracts lasting more than one year increased by 560,000 in the retailing sector.

"It appears that an increasing number of fast-food shops and convenience stores, which had depended on part-time workers during the summer vacation season, have adopted a policy of hiring people for a much longer period after the vacation season came to an end," he said.

"The fast-food shops, which have seen an increasing number of customers flock to their shops for less expensive dishes, appear to have adopted a policy of seeking to expand their sales by expanding their networks of shops," he said.

Japan's jobless rate hit 3.2 percent in April for the first time since continuous statistics began to be compiled in 1953.

The jobless rate dipped to 3.1 percent in may, but in June climbed back to 3.2 percent where it has stayed put.

Asked why the jobless rate for men broke the record for the first time since 1953, the official said, "there appear to be some jobless men who are awaiting good job opportunities, while refraining from taking available jobs which they do not like."

Rapidly Growing Industries To Create Jobs

OW2911085495 Tokyo KYODO in English
0723 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO — Seven rapidly growing industries, such as telecommunications, will create a combined 7.3 million jobs by 2010, compared with the 1993 level, if Japan promotes structural reform efforts, a government panel predicted Wednesday [29 November].

Domestic production by the seven promising sectors is estimated to rise 2.3-fold to about 436 trillion yen with deregulation and other structural reform, the Economic Council said.

The figures were revealed in a report on medium- and long-term outlooks for Japan's industrial and employment structure.

The report is a reference document to Japan's new economic plan for fiscal 1995-2000, which was submitted Wednesday by the council to Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama.

The seven promising sectors are corporate services, job placement services, health, medical and welfare services, leisure and living-related businesses, housing-related services and environment-related services, in addition to telecommunications.

Reflecting the growing spread of mobile phones, home shopping, remote education and other services, the telecommunications sector's production will nearly triple from about 56 trillion yen in 1993 to about 155 trillion yen in 2010, the council report said.

Output by the health, medical and welfare sectors will rise from about 37 trillion yen to about 69 trillion yen with the rapid aging of society, it said.

The report said the number of workers in the telecommunications sector will rise by about 1.53 million from the 1993 level by 2010.

The number of employees in the corporate services sector is expected to increase by about 1.33 million and that in the health, medical and welfare sector by about 1.83 million, it said.

Job Placement Liberalization Calls Increasing

OW2911060395 Tokyo KYODO in English
0415 GMT 29 Nov 95

[By Rieko Saito]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO — The Labor Ministry is facing increasing calls from both domestic and overseas sectors to open up Japan's job placement operations, a service the ministry has long kept to itself.

As the pressure has mounted, the Central Employment Security Council, an advisory body to the labor minister, has started looking into the matter much earlier than it had been scheduled for.

However, there remains strong resistance within the ministry and related sectors, which are asserting that such liberalization would make it difficult to prevent unfair job conditions and to maintain equal employment opportunities for the people.

The council is expected to compile a report by the middle of next year, but the issue will have to go through many twists and turns before any decision is made, experts say.

In Japan, job placement has been handled primarily by central and local government employment security offices since the 1947 enactment of the Employment Security Law.

Private job mediation is only allowed by agents approved by the ministry, and only among 29 types of jobs that require special skills. The jobs include those of doctors, nurses, lawyers, public accountants, cooks, artists and translators. Job placement commissions are limited to a maximum of 10.1 percent of wages on the jobs being introduced.

Meanwhile, with the prolonged slump in the national economy, the traditional employment system which features long-term job security and seniority-based promotions has gradually begun to erode in recent years.

Listed Japanese companies cut some 128,000 jobs over a one-year period from October 1993, according to a survey by business magazine TOYO KEIZAI, and thousands more jobs have been cut since then under the guise of streamlining.

The nation's jobless rate soared to a postwar high of 3.2 percent in April and has leveled off since.

Other pressing factors include the changes in the nation's industrial structure and economic activities as well as the shift of production overseas by Japanese manufacturers, experts say.

Against this backdrop, the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren) and other such bodies are saying that Japan needs to redistribute its manpower from declining sectors to growing industries.

They are increasingly urging the opening of job placement services to the private sector, noting that the current system in government hands is too inefficient to meet the rapidly changing needs of today's economic situation or to effectively promote a flexible flow of workers.

Similar calls have also come from the United States and France.

The U.S., for example, urged Japan in early November to abolish job placement restrictions and liberalize agency commissions as part of the Japanese Government's ongoing deregulation program.

It argued the one-year limit on licenses for private job placement agents should also be extended to five years.

A Labor Ministry official said that the U.S. request is too radical, adding, "the U.S. can say anything it wants because it has yet to ratify the job mediation clause of the International Labor Organization (ILO)."

Article 96 of the ILO treaty sets the duration of licenses for job agents at one year, he said.

As calls for the liberalization of job placement services are mounting, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry has announced its support for the idea.

The Administrative Reform Committee, a governmental advisory body which has been reviewing the government's deregulation program, appears to include a suggestion for opening up job placement services in its report to be submitted to Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in a few weeks.

The committee's stance, according to recent news reports, is that job mediation should generally be handled by private agents, but that jobs for manual labor and basic clerical work should be kept under the government control.

"The public job placement system has become outdated," said Hiroshi Yamamura, chief economic researcher at NLI [Nippon Life Insurance] Research Institute, a research arm of Nippon Life Insurance Co., Japan's largest life insurer.

The system was designed to change prewar employment practices whereby employers tended to exploit workers, Yamamura said, adding that it is neither forward-looking nor adequate to apply simple solutions to correcting the current mismatch between jobs and the workforce.

The current system should be changed, he said, but added "we still should not forget there are many workers out there now who need to be retrained in order to take on new work."

Because jobs are growing increasingly specialized these days, the government should provide financial assistance for worker retraining programs, while promoting a free flow of workers, Yamamura said.

He suggested, for instance, that instead of providing subsidies for companies to maintain their employment levels under the current sluggish economy, the government should give the money to workers directly.

Or, he continues, the government should provide unemployment allowances instead of unemployment insurance for workers who leave their jobs. This would encourage more people to undertake training courses to prepare for new jobs.

"These steps can be made possible with cooperation among various government sectors like the Labor, Education and Welfare Ministries," Yamamura said.

North Korea

Rev. Billy Graham's Son Arrives for Visit

SK2511110595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0936 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA) — Rev. Nelson E. Graham, son of Rev. Billy Graham, religious leader of the United States, and his party arrived here today.

They were met at the airport by Yi Chon-min, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Korean Christian Federation.

The pastor issued a statement upon arrival at the airport.

Presents Gift for Kim Chong-il

SK2711101995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0928 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 27 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from Rev. Nelson E. Graham, son of Rev. Billy Graham, religious leader of the United States, on a visit to Korea.

It was handed to Kim Yong-nam, vice-premier and foreign minister by him.

Departs Pyongyang 28 Nov

SK2811101795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 28 (KCNA) — Rev. Nelson E. Graham, son of Rev. Billy Graham, a religious leader of the United States, and his party left here today after a four day visit to Korea.

They visited the Pyongyang No. 1 Senior Middle School, the tomb of King Tangun, the ancestral father of the Korean nation, the Changgwang Kindergarten and the Pongsu Church and met officials of the Central Committee of the Korean Christian Federation and the Central Committee of the Korean Roman Catholic Association.

Rev. Nelson E. Graham gave a party on his Korea visit.

U.S. Urged To Abandon 'Reckless Confrontation'

SK2411113895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0906 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA) — The secretariat of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea [Cilreco] published the November issue of its bulletin.

The bulletin carried "The U.S. Clings to Dangerous Policy of Confrontation on the Korean Peninsula", "Non-Governmental Organizations of Many Countries Publish Joint Appeal Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea on the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the U.N. Foundation", "Brisk International Solidarity Movement in the Month for Supporting the Proposal for Founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo" and other articles. The bulletin denounced the United States for staging the provocative joint military exercises obstructive of the implementation of the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework and strengthening the moves to form an aggressive triangular military alliance of the U.S., Japan and South Korea, thus frustrating the process of detente on the Korean peninsula.

The bulletin branded the moves for the triangular military alliance as a plot for "NATO in the East".

It urged the U.S. to revise its policy toward Korea in accordance with the U.N. Charter this year marking the 50th anniversary of the U.N. foundation.

The bulletin called upon the justice- and progress-loving fighting organizations and people over the world to stir up public opinion and put collective pressure on the U.S. so that it may keep its commitments to the DPRK and abandon its reckless confrontation policy and do good things for reunification and peace in the Korean peninsula.

Papers Link Kim Yong-sam With No Scandal

SK2911041595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0345 GMT 29 Nov 95

["Papers Call for Clarification of Slush Fund Scandal" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 29 (KCNA) — With the traitor No Tae-u's slush fund scandal disclosed, rocking the whole of South Korea, the puppet ruling quarters have fallen into a serious confusion and public circles are lifting up voices demanding that the chief culprits and accomplices be brought to trial at once.

In this regard NODONG SINMUN today says in a commentary:

The South Korean people are demanding the punishment of not only the traitor No Tae-u, who amassed astronomical amount of money by abusing power but also the traitor Kim Yong-sam, who has defended the thief, engaging in irregularities with him.

If the Kim Yong-sam group have a shred of human conscience and reason, they must render an ear to the public demand, fully admit their crimes of conspiracy in irregularities, step down from power and meet a judgement by history.

They, however, are claiming that they received no money from No and have nothing to do with the slush fund scandal.

It is nobody's secret that the traitor Kim seated himself on the "presidential chair" with the help of bayonet, power and 1,000 billion won given by No.

But the Kim Yong-sam group are trying to cover up their true color as accomplices, while playing a drama of "detaining No and investigating his scandal" and renaming the "Democratic Liberal Party."

In a commentary MINJU CHOSON says the traitor Kim must not resort to the sleight of hand but make public the amount of money he received from No and step down as demanded by the people.

South Conducts Military Exercise in DMZ

SK2911052395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 29 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppets on Sunday [26 November] undisguisedly introduced 90 mm recoilless guns into the Demilitarized Zone in the central sector of the front. And they installed them and took a firing posture under the North side's eyes, military sources said.

Earlier, on Saturday puppet army soldiers in the DMZ threatened civil policemen of the North side with loaded 112.7 mm machine guns.

Daily Denounces Various War Exercises

SK2911063495 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0853 GMT 28 Nov 95

[NODONG SINMUN 28 November commentary: "The Warmongers Are Shooting Arrows at the North"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation on the Korean peninsula is becoming all the more tense due to the commotion of the war exercise to invade the North by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique.

A replica of the Team Spirit joint military exercise, the Foal Eagle 95 joint military exercise which was held throughout South Korea from 13 October, cannot be compared with past war exercises in its large scale of military force and its form and contents. Soldiers from the U.S. mainland and U.S. soldiers occupying South Korea, most of the puppet army forces, the reserve troops, and the police have been mobilized, and many offensive up-to-date war equipment including nuclear powered submarines, naval destroyers, and landing ships affiliated with the U.S. Army's Seventh Fleet, were even committed.

Due to this adventurous and reckless war exercise, the South side extending from the forefront area to the southern extremity of Pusan, and the skies above the West and East Seas of Korea were entirely wrapped up in clouds of war flames. Not satisfied with holding the Foal Eagle 95 joint military exercise, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique consecutively held the Hwarang war exercise and the 95-combined exercise against infiltration, thus, openly revealing their attempts to invade the North.

Prior to this, the rascals continuously carried out provocative war exercises under the pretext of various joint military exercises including the joint military exercise of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, the Freedom Banner-95 joint military exercise, and the Ulchi Focus Lens joint military exercise.

The bloodthirsty war exercise being held in South Korea at this time reminds us of actual warfare that ultimately lights the fuse to invade the North, and it has very adventurous and maniacal characteristics.

While expanding the Foal Eagle 95 joint military exercise step by step, the puppets held a large-scale river-crossing exercise on 31 October throughout the Nam [South] Han River area. Tanks, armed helicopters, and guns were committed in the war exercise which was held amidst babbling that it is to enhance the combined combat strength of the infantry, artillery, armored, and military engineer corps. Also on this day, throughout the whole area of Kangwon Province, South Korea, the puppet Army's Cholbyok [iron wall] unit were dragged out and carried out a joint civilian-government- military exercise. On 30 October, as part of the Foal Eagle 95 joint military exercise, the so-called defense exercise was held at Pusan Port and Kimhae Airport.

In particular, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique are creating a warlike atmosphere as if it is the eve of war throughout the forefront area which faces us. On 24 November, the South Korean puppets mobilized and deployed the puppet Army's artillery group with 105 mm guns in Changsa-ri, and Yulle-ri, Chorwon county, Kangwon Province, South Korea which are the forefront area, and blindly fired some 250 shells in the areas near the DMZ, thus, instilling an atmosphere of confrontation. In the regions of Taedong-ri, Paju county in the mouth of Imjin River, they were running amok in the artillery firing exercise aimed at us.

On 21 November, the U.S. imperialist warmongers dragged in the P-3 patrol plane from their overseas base and flew about in the sky above the sea off Tokchok Islet in the West Sea of Korea [Yellow Sea] and in the sky above the sea off Kangnung in the East Sea of Korea [Sea of Japan], thus carried out night reconnaissance flights. The puppet's air-borne commandos and formations of transport planes were heated in holding large-scale air-borne operation exercise simulating infiltration in the depth of the northern half of the Republic throughout the forefront areas.

On the same day, the puppet army murderous villains who took a jump-off position around the area of Pangmok-ri and Yongsan-ri, Paju county situated in the western sector of the front line, recklessly fired some 50 flare bombs and more than 700 bullets of automatic rifles, thus, running amok in the night offensive exercise to invade the North. Also, during the month of October, the U.S. imperialists mobilized various reconnaissance planes including high altitude strategic reconnaissance plane, early warning plane, patrol plane, tactical reconnaissance plane, and helicopters for electronic warfare, to hold aerial espionage acts against the northern half of the Republic, on some 200 occasions.

This shows that the aggressive war preparation maneuver by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean warmongers who are whirling a bundle of bees and shooting arrows at the North, is entering into a more dangerous stage with each passing day.

South Korean 'Defector' Kim Won-sok Interviewed

SK2911114495 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0945 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 29 (KCNA) — Kim Won- sok, a South Korean defector, was interviewed by KCNA.

He, who was the president of the National Tourism Corporation of South Korea, defected to the northern half of Korea from the cursed society of South Korea together with Yu Sol-cha, a clerk of the corporation, five years ago.

He was suffering from an incurable disease in South Korea. He has been freed from the illness under the socialist public health system set up in the northern half of Korea.

The interviewee said that he was grateful to the Workers' Party of Korea, which gave him such a fortune as rebirth.

He went on to say:

I suffered from an incurable disease in South Korea for ten odd years. I have recently undergone operations thanks to the public health system in North Korea and now I am freed from the illness.

I came over to the northern half of Korea five years ago, which was the start of a true, new life for me. The disease which I had been suffering from in the cursed society of South Korea went from bad to worse, endangering my physical body hourly.

The thought that I have led a happy life without anxiety end worries in the few remaining years of my life and the thought that I have made no contributions to the grateful society made me accept my disease as predestination.

It was the Workers' Party of Korea that paid deep attention to my hidden agony and mental and physical sufferings, a party that all of North Koreans call their mother with deep emotions.

The blank for the name of witness for operations on me was filled with the words "mother party" as well as the name of my wife, and the operations on me were performed in the presence of officials of the party Central Committee as witnesses.

Indeed, I could be re-born at the age of sixty in the embrace of General Kim Chong-il, the embrace of the great mother party.

Kim Won-sok said that his experiences in the two societies of the North and South helped him have a correct analysis of the situation of health services in the two societies as well as the essence of the two social systems.

The society of South Korea is a veritable hell where the patients who have a few pennies cannot be free from their diseases, unable to pay a huge amount of doctor's bill, much less those who have no money, he said, and continued: It is because of the successive rulers of South Korean society who have administered misrule.

The wonderful realities of North Korea where all the people enjoy longevity in good health are a precious fruition of the idea of believing in the people as in heaven maintained by the great Generalissimo Kim Il-song and respected General Kim Chong-il.

I could endure the pains caused by the serious spinal disease with the happiness and honor of living under Generalissimo Kim Il- song as the father of my family. The sad news of his death in July last year was a heartbreaking pain.

He said he saw on TV screen respected General Kim Chong-il with a smile on his face as bright as the sun, on the platform of the Kim Il-song Square, waving his hand to the military parade and civilian parade of one million people celebrating the 50th anniversary of the party and his was the image of the generalissimo.

It is because of General Kim Chong-il that the generalissimo is alive in the hearts of our fellow countrymen, and led by him, our country will achieve greater prosperity and development and the dawn of a reunified country will certainly come, he said, adding: "General Kim Chong-il is the father of our 70 million fellow countrymen and the destiny of us all."

Enactment of '18 May Special Law' Denounced

SK2911113195 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
1220 GMT 28 Nov 95

[Commentary by Yun Pyong-son: "The Desperate Measure Taken by One Who Faces a Crisis of Ruin"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report, on 24 November, traitor Kim Yong-sam called in the secretary general of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and instructed him to enact a special law on the 18 May incident, and following this, the traitor also kicked up a commotion of explaining the background of his instruction to enact a special law on the 18 May incident at a so- called senior secretaries' meeting. He also reportedly called in the DLP chairman to discuss follow-up measures to enact the special law.

Needless to say, this sudden step taken by traitor Kim Yong-sam is a submission to the strong struggle of the

South Korean people of all walks of life who have called for enacting a special law on the 18 May incident. It is also a victory for the South Korean people.

However, in enacting the special law on the 18 May incident, there are some serious problems which cannot be overlooked. In essence, the problem of enacting the 18 May special law was raised by the South Korean people long ago. If the Kim Yong-sam clique had had the slightest degree of sincere willingness to impose due punishment upon the Kwangju murderers by enacting a special law on the 18 May incident so that the South Korean people, including Kwangju citizens, can vent their deep grudge, he would have enacted the 18 May special law a long time ago.

Nevertheless, the Kim Yong-sam clique has obstinately opposed the enactment of the law. However, it has belatedly accepted the people's demands.

What is the reason for the Kim Yong-sam clique to accept the demand? It is closely related to the fact that the dirty true colors of traitor Kim Yong-sam as an accomplice who has been deeply involved in the No Tae-u rascal's unprecedented secret fund scandal have been revealed one by one.

According to the materials revealed, when the issue of liquidating the Fifth Republic was raised as a serious issue, traitor Kim Yong-sam received 60 billion won from No Tae-u in return for cooperating with him. Traitor Kim Yong-sam also received 100 billion won from No Tae-u when the three parties merged.

The money-related collusion between No Tae-u and Kim Yong-sam was carried out in a more full-fledged manner after No Tae-u seceded from the DLP on the threshold of the 1992 presidential election.

According to the disclosure by the opposition lawmakers of the puppet National Assembly, traitor Kim Yong-sam met No Tae-u four to five times before and after the 13th presidential election.

In particular, in their meeting on 2 October 1992, more than 500 billion won of secret funds were delivered to Kim Yong-sam as election campaign funds. At their secret meetings in December 1992 and February 1993, tens of billion won were delivered to Kim Yong- sam as a congratulatory gift for his election and under the condition of guaranteeing No Tae-u's security after his retirement from office, and 190 billion won were delivered to him as transfer of power fund.

Even after taking office, traitor Kim Yong-sam continued maintaining money-related collusion with No Tae-u and amassed a huge amount of money.

Before and after the so-called real name financial transaction system was enforced, traitor Kim Yong-sam received a huge amount of money totaling more than 400 billion won from No Tae-u and some conglomerates.

With the disclosure of these facts, the people's strong resistance was gradually directed toward traitor Kim Yong-sam. As a result, traitor Kim Yong-sam has been finally driven into a crisis of ruin together with No Tae-u.

Traitor Kim Yong-sam's decision to enact the 18 May special law this time is nothing but a desperate measure to rescue his destiny which has been driven into a crisis of ruin by diverting elsewhere the attention focused on him at home and abroad and the brunt of the people's struggle.

Another reason for traitor Kim Yong-sam's decision to enact the 18 May special law is closely related to his scheme to create a favorable phase for the the puppet National Assembly election to be held next year. Kim Yong-sam's DLP which suffered a shattering defeat in the local elections last June has been more thoroughly isolated and rejected by the people because of its involvement in the secret fund scandal involving No Tae-u.

Under such circumstances, Kim Yong-sam's DLP will undoubtedly suffer again a shattering defeat in the puppet National Assembly election next year and, consequently, a small ruling party and a large opposition party will be created in the puppet National Assembly. In this way, traitor Kim Yong-sam will be forced from power without winding up the latter half of his term of office. This is a common opinion at home and abroad.

Against this backdrop, traitor Kim Yong-sam is attempting to win people's favor with the popularity-winning tactics such as the enactment of the 18 May special law in a bid to prevent in advance another shattering defeat in the next year's puppet National Assembly election .

The commotion of enacting the 18 May special law is the Kim Yong- sam clique's trickery. This is vividly shown in the fact that the DLP gangs are resolutely opposed to the introduction of a special prosecutor system. All of the bosses in the present South Korean puppet prosecutors' organs are the followers of traitor Kim Yong- sam. This is a well-known fact. Under such circumstances, it is clear that even if the 18 May special law is enacted and a trial commotion is kicked up under this law, such a trial cannot become a trial to punish those criminals involved in the 18 May incident; rather it will become a mere trial to save the murderers of the Kwangju incident.

In the meantime, the South Korean puppet prosecutors' office has already made a judicial decision that it "has no right to institute a public action" against the criminals involved in the 18 May incident. To make a fair judicial decision on the murderers involved in the 18 May incident, the system of appointing special prosecutors should be introduced, along with the enactment of the 18 May special law, and those prosecutors who have no personal connection with the Kim Yong-sam, No Tae-u, and Chon Tu-hwan cliques and those figures who can represent the people's will should be included in the system. Only by doing so can the judicial decision on the criminals involved in the 18 May incident be made fairly in conformity with the people's will and demand.

Nonetheless, the Kim Yong-sam clique is attempting to enact the 18 May special law alone, while refusing to introduce the system of appointing special prosecutors. This is nothing but a trick designed to give the murderers indulgence by kicking up a nominal trial commotion.

This is why the South Korean people are keenly looking at the Kim Yong-sam clique's crafty intrigue and are watching with high vigilance the Kim Yong-sam clique's scheme to keep dark the secret political fund scandal with the current 18 May special law commotion and why they are more vigorously fighting against the Kim Yong-sam clique in close connection with the struggle for strictly resolving the secret political fund scandal, the struggle for enacting the 18 May special law, and the struggle for introducing the system of appointing special prosecutors.

With any trickery, the Kim Yong-sam clique will not be able to change the general trend of the times which is strangling Kim Yong-sam's neck.

By holding higher the flames of struggle, the South Korean people will vent Kwangju citizens' grudge and take the civilian-led fascist clique of Kim Yong-sam, the ringleader of irregularities and corruption, into the court of history.

Prosecution 'May' Withdraw No's Arraignment

SK2311100095 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0831 GMT 23 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 23 (KCNA) — The traitor No Tae-u, the principal culprit of the "slush fund scandal," which has created a big stir in the public circles of South Korea, was detained in a jail in Seoul a few days ago.

It is public opinion in South Korea that No's arrest is no more than a forestalling trick rigged up by the traitor Kim Yong-sam in league with No Tae-u in a bid to prevent after-effect of the scandal upon him.

The opposition "National Congress for New Politics" and Democratic Party are strongly criticizing the traitor No Tae-u's announcement that he would not make public the truth behind the slush fund which flew in the political camp.

In fact, the traitor Kim Yong-sam sent a "secretary" of "Chongwadae" [presidential office] to No Tae-u in secrecy in an effort to prevent the spread of the "case." And he has directly instructed the prosecution how to investigate and make clear the "case".

The traitor No Tae-u refused to admit the evidence and the charge of bribes even in the second arraignment.

All this casts a doubt that the second arraignment and the follow-up detainment of No are no more than a stopgap measure to conceal Kim's deep involvement in the "slush fund scandal".

The traitor Kim Yong-sam is reportedly watching for a chance to set the traitor No free. As already reported, although the traitor No was detained, there may be possibility for the prosecution to withdraw the arraignment, before the trial closes, with the cancel or suspension of the execution of detainment for the reason of his illness and with a special amnesty by the government. And his detainment is a temporary makeshift measure for the suspension of the execution of detainment or bail.

It is becoming clear that the detainment is a trick of the principal culprit and accomplice of the scandal to find a way out of the tight corner they have been driven into by the pressure of public circles in South Korea.

Group Urges Kim Yong-sam To 'Step Down'

SK2611083495 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0710 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Havana, November 24 (KCNA) — The Havana mission of the National Democratic Front of South Korea (NDFSK) called a press conference on November 21 in connection with the slush fund scandal in South Korea.

The chief of the mission, Pak Kwang-ki, said the No Tae-u's slush fund scandal is power-backed irregularities unprecedented in the amount of money, the craftiness of the fund collection and the anti-people, antidemocratic nature of the use of the fund.

He described the "civilian" regime as a sanctuary for No Tae-u, a heinous criminal, and called Kim Yong-sam a despicable accomplice linked with No by power and money. "Kim seated himself on the 'presidential' chair with the help of the dictatorial power of the 'Sixth Republic' and secret fund amounting to more than 1,000 billion won he received from No and, in return for this, covered up No's slush fund," he said, and added:

"The traitor Kim, in a bid to veil his crime as an accomplice, has been crying for 'thorough investigation' and 'morality' outwardly. But, in actuality, he has been playing a brazen-faced double-dealing game of fooling the people by an investigation according to a ready-made scenario and perfunctory detention of No."

"Kim Yong-sam must clearly see the anger of the people, make a thorough investigation into the No's scandal, make public the 'presidential election' fund and 'congratulation' fund he received from military murderers before and after the 'election' and step down at once as demanded by all the people," he urged.

'Martyr' Chon Awarded Diploma Posthumously

SK2211064795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0341 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 22 (KCNA) — A diploma of graduation was awarded to martyr Chon Se-yong of South Korea, who has been registered as an honorary student of Kim Chaek University of Technology.

Chon Se-yong, who was a second-year student of the computer course of Kyongwon University in South Korea, set himself on fire and plunged to his death from the second floor of the university building, heaping curses on the fascist clique, on May 3, 1991 when a rally took place to denounce the clique, who brutally murdered patriotic students.

Kim Chaek University of Technology enlisted martyr Chon as an honorary student in the second-year grade of the computer course of the computer faculty on June 5, 1991.

At the 45th graduation ceremony of the university held on Monday a reporter and speakers said that though Chon Se-yong died, his cry for bloody revenge is still ringing in their ears. The martyr has always been with them in campus, study and struggle, they added.

They said his voice calling for independence, democracy and reunification has led to a great cry of South Korean patriotic youths and people, who are vigorously struggling to achieve the reunification of the country through confederacy, scathingly denouncing the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique who have been engaged in anti-ethical, anti-national criminal acts and hellbent on national confrontation and anti-reunification moves.

A letter addressed to chon's parents was read out at the ceremony. The letter expressed the hope that his parents would, as ever, powerfully encourage many South Korean sons and daughters in the sacred struggle for independence, democracy and reunification, with so warm heart and invariable love as they brought up chon se yong to be an admirable son of the country.

The dean of the computor faculty received the diploma awarded to the martyr, for him.

Servicemen Mark Cuban Armed Forces Anniversary

SK2811041295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0259 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 28 (KCNA) — A meeting of servicemen was held at Kim Il-song Military University on Monday on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the foundation of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces.

The participants, prior to the meeting, laid bouquets of flowers and made a bow before the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song in the university.

Invited to the meeting were Cuban Ambassador to Korea Jose Ramon Rodriguez Varona and the military attache of the Cuban Embassy in Pyongyang.

Speeches were made at the meeting.

After the meeting the participants looked round pictures on the militant course of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces.

Envoy at Seminar on Kim Chong-il's Work

SK2711132495 Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean 1100 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A seminar on "The Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Is the Party of the Great Leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song," an immortal classic work written by the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, was held in Moscow on 16 November.

At the seminar, DPRK Ambassador to Russia Son Song-pil first gave an explanation on the structure and content of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's immortal classic work "The Workers Party of Korea Is the Party of the Great Leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song."

Then, the participants in the seminar spoke. A former Russian ambassador to our country who is a doctor of philosophy stressed: In his work, respected Comrade Kim Chong-il comprehensively elucidated the substance and principles of ideas and theories on building a genuine working-class party, as well as methods to build it, and explained the WPK's experience in realizing them. By writing the work, he made an immortal contribution to the development of mankind's social sciences.

He continued: The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's work is indeed an instructive work that exerts a practical influence not only upon the WPK, but upon the entire communist and socialist movement in the world. We have to reexamine Russia's realities based on the ideas presented in the work.

Next, the chairman of the leftists' party of the Russia Political Council, the editor-in-chief of GOLOS ROSSII, and first secretary of the Committee of Youth Organizations of Russia, spoke. They said the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's work, which stresses on the need to build the party as the leader's [suryong] party, elucidates a really precious idea, and unanimously noted that the chuche idea, the future idea of mankind and the idea of truth, will be immortal.

Russian Communist Party Leader Interviewed

SK2411032595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0310 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA) — Oleg Shenin, chairman of the Council of the Union of Communist Parties-the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, on a visit to Korea, was interviewed by KCNA on November 22.

After elaborating on his Korea visit, Oleg Shenin said he has seen the conviction of the victory in the looks of the Korean people who are dynamically advancing along socialist lines firmly convinced of the validity of their cause.

"What made us have particular respects for Comrade Kim Il-song is that he most successfully solved the question of inheritance of the revolutionary cause so that the banner of chuche, the red flag of revolution, could be defended creditably even though generations may alternate," he said.

"Indeed, he was a great statesman, who devoted his all to Korea's independence, the people's freedom and happiness, as well as a great thinker and theoretician, practician and a great model of communist men, an ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander and a true son of the people," he said.

"Though he passed away, he will be alive forever in the hearts of all people living on this planet," he stressed.

"Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is a great philosopher, practician and passionate thinker, is wisely leading the struggle for accomplishing socialism following the ideology and cause of Comrade Kim Il-song," he noted.

"The banner of socialism, the red flag of revolution, is fluttering in Korea in the east and the supreme commander in the struggle for building socialism is Comrade Kim Chong-il."

"Because Comrade Kim Chong-il is leading the socialist movement holding high the banner of chuche, the red flag of revolution, socialism will emerge victorious without fail," he said, noting that "our party and our party members will always send steadfast solidarity to the Korean people in their efforts for building socialism and the cause of national reunification and will advance towards victory alongside the Korean people."

He sincerely wished the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il a long life in good health for the victory of the cause of socialism.

Korean, Japanese Women Meet in Japan

SK2311095995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0759 GMT 23 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, November 21 [date as received] (KNS-KCNA) — Korean and Japanese women met in Osaka on November 13 under the motto of"50 Years After Liberation, 50 Years After War."

Addressing the meeting, Chong Hwa-sop, chairwoman of the Osaka prefectural office of the Democratic Union of Korean Women in Japan, called for making this significant year a year of building confidence between Korea and Japan.

The wife of former Japanese prime minister, Mutsuko Miki, gave a lecture titled "What We Can Do Now" in which she accused the Japanese prime minister and other cabinet members of making wrong remarks one after another and said postwar education in Japan's history should be a genuine education helpful towards imparting the truth to the people with a clear conscience.

Speeches were made at the meeting by former Secretary General of the Osaka International Peace Centre Yoshiaki Arimoto and writer Rumiko Nishino.

They, basing themselves on historical facts, proved that the "Ulsa (1905) Five-Point Treaty" and other "treaties" are invalid and Japan's colonial domination of Korea was an illegal military occupation.

Introducing testimonies made by former "comfort women for the Army," the speakers elaborated on the never-to-be- healed hurts inflicted on the victims and Japan's responsibility for the war.

They said it is high time that Japan and Korea made efforts for future, peace and friendship. And they called on all the people to exert strenuous efforts with a proper stand for that purpose.

LSWYK Delegation Leaves for Japan

SK2211074095 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0414 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, Novmber 21 (KCNA) — Delegation of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWYK] led by Choe Yong-hae, chairman of its Central Committee, left here today by air for Japan.

Japanese Figure Praises Kim Chong-il

SK2311121195 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0817 GMT 23 Nov 95

["His Excellency Kim Chong-il Is Brilliant Leader: Japanese Figure" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 23 (KCNA) — The newspaper CHOSON SINBO November 20, under the fixed title "Let Us Follow His Excellency Kim Chong-il," carried an article headlined "A Brilliant Leader, Applying the Way of Giving Full Play to the People's Potentialities in the Labor Movement" written by Shoji Yoshita, curator of the Saitama Traditional Crafts Hall and vice- chairman of the Saitama Prefectural People's Council for Japan-Korea Friendship and Solidarity.

He said in the article, "I, studying the anti-Japanese armed struggle, the agrarian reform after the liberation of Korea, the Korean [word indistinct] rehabilitation on ruins and other things concerning the revolutionary struggle of President Kim Il-song, felt very strongly that they mirror socialism and indicate the way we should take."

"Visiting the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 1979 as a member of the third national visiting group for the study of the chuche idea, I learnt the chuche idea in a systematic way and was deeply moved by the guiding method of chuche by which the superior helps the subordinate and the latter believes in the former, accelerating socialist construction," he said.

Noting that His Excellency Kim Chong-il, in his treatise "On the Chuche Idea," systematized the chuche idea founded and applied in construction by the president and gave a detailed exposition of the ways of embodying the idea, the author said he felt that His Excellency Kim Chong-il is a brilliant leader.

He said the president drew a lesson in the anti-Japanese armed struggle and socialist construction that if one believes in the people and relies on them, he will always emerge victorious, and if one is forsaken by them, he will always fail.

"The guiding method of chuche can be applied in the movement of trade unions, too," he said. "What one should rely on in the labor movement is comrades."

He further said:

"Though hard was the struggle for higher payment in 1975 when employment reduction and wage control were being intensified with Japan's business circles tending towards low-rate economic growth from high-rate growth, it could win in reliance on the chuche idea that man is the master of everything.

"I am wondering whether, if I failed to learn the history of the revolutionary activities of President Kim Il-song, I could be willing to struggle in the depths of despair."

"When I was paying my third visit to the DPRK in 1992, I was honored with an audience of President Kim Il-song. He was very noble and gentle," he said, adding:

"I had aspired after independence in the labour movement. I have learnt from the chuche idea how to carry on the labor movement independently.

"I think that if Japan is to be independent, it should properly settle the past."

Groups in Japan, China Urge Dissidents' Release

SK2611075995 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0646 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 26 (KCNA) — Foreigners and overseas Koreans have denounced the South Korean authorities for having arrested old woman Pak Yong-kil and students Chong Min-chu and Yi Hye-chong of the South Korean Federation of University Student Councils under the South Korean headquarters of the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchong-hangnyon), for their visit to the North of Korea, and demanded their release.

Tamaki Yamamoto, secretary general of the society for defending human rights of Koreans in Hokkaido, Japan, said it was very natural that Pak Yong-kil visited the North of Korea on the occasion of the first anniversary of the death of President Kim Il-song. He condemned the inhuman act of the South Korean authorities, who put her in prison.

Presbyter Kiyoko Nakamura of Japan viewed the South Korean authorities' arrest of Pak on the charge of the violation of the "National Security Law" as an intolerable act and called on the believers attending a prayer meeting to conduct activities for the recovery of her health and her release.

The Zairean Society for the Study of Kim Chong-il Works and the Swiss Committee for Supporting Korean Reunification sent letters of protest to the traitor Kim Yong-sam, urging the immediate release of the old woman and the two students, Chong Min-chu and Yi Hye-chong.

The Denmark-DPRK Friendship Association in a statement called on the world peaceloving nations to condemn the South Korean authorities for intensifying suppression by invoking the "National Security Law" and hoped that many countries will immediately take steps for an early release of the two girls, who were illegally arrested.

The overseas headquarters of Pomchonghangnyon said in a statement that Korean youths and students overseas who are with a strong sense of justice and patriotism will fight vigorously to have the two students greeted by the South Korean students with a vanguard struggle.

The Chinese regional headquarters of Pomchonghangnyon and the federation of South Koreans in Japan for democracy and reunification, too, issued statements protesting the arrest of the two students and demanding their release.

Envoy Pays Farewell Call on Thai Premier

*SK2711142595 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
1100 GMT 25 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Ambassador Yi To-sop paid a farewell call on Thai Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha on 21 November. During the meeting, the ambassador conveyed the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's greetings to Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha. The prime minister expressed deep gratitude, and asked the ambassador to convey his greetings of long life to the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Photo Exhibit Marks Romanian National Day

*SK2811041395 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0233 GMT 28 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 28 (KCNA) — A film show and a photo exhibition were held here on Monday to mark the national day of Romania.

Invited there were Alexandru Mica, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Romanian Embassy in Pyongyang, and the embassy officials.

Present there were Vice-Chairman of the Korean Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries Kim Yong-su, who is vice-chairman of the Korea-Romania Friendship Association, officials concerned and working people in the city.

Pakistan's Bhutto Sends Gift to Kim Chong-il

*SK2611075395 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0657 GMT 26 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 26 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The gift was handed to marshal of the Korean People's Army Choe Kwang, Politburo member of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee, vice-chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Minister of the People's Armed Forces, who was heading a DPRK military delegation on a visit to Pakistan, on November 24 by Pakistani Minister of Defence Aftab Shaban Mirani upon the authorization of the Pakistani Prime Minister.

Nicaraguan Leader Supports Reunification Proposal

*SK2511065995 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0647 GMT 25 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA) — Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, president of Nicaragua, told the DPRK ambassador to her country on November 14 that she fully supports the national reunification proposal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

She stressed that the friendly relations between Nicaragua and the DPRK will develop on good terms.

The general secretary of the permanent Secretariat of the Organizations of Socialists in the Mediterranean told a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] on November 22 that he admires the WPK led by respected Comrade Kim Chong-il and fully supports the policy of the WPK.

He sincerely hoped that Comrade Kim Chong-il will achieve a new success by wisely leading the struggle of the Korean people for the building of socialism centred on the popular masses and the reunification of the country.

Nicaraguan Party Leaders Meet Ambassador

*SK2411145195 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0811 GMT 24 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA) — Leaders of Nicaraguan political parties met the ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to their country on November 13 and 15 when he paid courtesy calls on them.

The chairman of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party, Gustavo Tablada, told the ambassador that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was one of the most outstanding leaders in the world. He expressed deep condolences again over his death.

"The Nicaraguan Socialist Party hopes that the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and the Korean people will make greater achievements in socialist construction under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il," he said.

The general secretary of the Sandinist National Liberation Front of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, said that his party invariably supports the WPK and the Korean people in their just struggle for national reunification.

WPK Congratulates BCP Congress

SK2411120295 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0917 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA) — The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] sent a message to the Britannic Communist Party (BCP) today, congratulating it on its 43rd congress.

The message expressed the belief that the 43rd congress will be an important occasion in the BCP's activities for defending socialism, safeguarding the interests of the working masses including the working class and strengthening itself. It also sincerely wished the party great success in the work of the congress.

Indian Groups Urge UN Resolution Implementation

SK2911122695 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0846 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 29 (KCNA) — The all India Indo-Korean Friendship Association and the Indian Committee for Supporting the Korean Reunification published a joint statement on November 22 concerning the resolution on Korean problem adopted at the 30th UN General Assembly session 20 years ago.

The statement demended that the United States and the South Korean authorities take measures for implementing the UN resolution at once in the interest of peace of Korea and the world.

It strongly urged the United States to withdraw its troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea without delay and conclude a peace agreement with the DPRK.

It called upon all the democratic and peace-loving forces of India to express firm support to the struggle for implementing the UN resolution on the Korean problem.

Kang Song-san Greets Malagasy Prime Minister

SK2211115795 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1050 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 22 (KCNA) — Kang Song-san, premier of the Administration Council, sent a message of greetings to Emmanuel Rakotovahiny upon his appointment as prime minister of Madagascar.

Expressing the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will continue to develop, the message wished him success in his responsible work.

WPK Hosts Reception for Yemeni Group

SK2911055595 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0421 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 29 (KCNA) — The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] hosted a reception on November 28 for the delegation of the General People's Congress of Yemen on a visit to Korea.

In his address at the reception, Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, said that the General People's Congress of Yemen under the correct leadership of his excellency respected President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is actively struggling for the attainment of national unity and for the consolidation and independent development of a unified state while cementing itself and increasing its leading role in keeping with the new change of circumstances.

"The Workers' Party of Korea is rejoiced over the achievements made by your party in the building of the party and a new society and wishes it a new success in its future activities for the prosperity and development of the country," he added, and stressed:

"Our party and people will as ever make every possible effort to maintain close relations of friendship and cooperation with your party and the Yemeni people in conformity with the idea of independence, peace and friendship."

Head of the delegation Yahya Muhammad al-Mutawakkil deputy general secretary of the General

People's Congress of Yemen, in his speech said he expressed deep sorrow at the death of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song once again.

Pointing out that the Korean people had made remarkable achievements in the past under the wise leadership of His Excellency Kim Il-song, the eternal leader, the speaker said that such achievements are more brilliantly shining and expanding day by day thanks to His Excellency Kim Chong-il, the great leader.

He further said:

"Many common points exist between the General People's Congress of Yemen and the Workers' Party of Korea and between the two countries and the two peoples.

"Our General People's Congress of Yemen will in the future, too, actively endeavour to make the friendly relations between the two parties and the two countries closer."

Joint Development Program Projects Viewed

SK2911055895 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0423 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 29 (KCNA) — The state Hwangju fruit farm has been equipped with facilities capable of producing a million saplings of pure breed free from viral infection in a year as well as a field for saplings and an experimental plot with the introduction of the technology of tissue culture for phoducing fruit plant saplings under the plan of cooperation between the DPRK and the United Nations Development Programme. Store houses capable of safely storing 200 tons of fruits have been built on the Pyongyang fruit farm.

Over 30 kinds of modern timber processing machines were installed at the Kim Yi-yong factory.

Children Win Prizes at Beijing Picture Show

SK2711094995 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0908 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 27 (KCNA) — Gold, silver and bronze prizes were awarded to drawings of Korean children at the 3rd Beijing international children's picture show.

A gold prize was awarded to "Friendship Play", a crayon drawing of pupil Pak Ok-chol of the Kangan Senior Middle School in Pyongyang, and a silver prize to "Happy Children", a crayon drawing of pupil Kim Kyong-chin of the Tangsang Senior Middle School in Pyongyang.

Bronze prizes were respectively given to "Korea-China Friendship" and "The World in the Sea", crayon drawings of Kim Son and Pak Nam- chol, who are pupils of the Palgol Senior Middle School in Pyongyang, and "To New Space", a crayon drawing of pupil Choe Hyon-il of the Kwangbok Street Senior Middle School in Pyongyang.

Kim Chong-il Sends Gifts to Officers

SK2311053395 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0313 GMT 23 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 23 (KCNA) — Supreme commander of the Korean People's Army Comrade Kim Chong-il sent 60th birthday tables to participants in the national meeting of public security officers.

The birthday tables were conveyed on Wednesday to officers Yi Sung-kuk, Han Tae-pom, Yu Chang-op and Yi Chae-hui, greeting their 60th birthdays during the meeting, at the Chongnyu restaurant.

They have faithfully served in the public security organs for 30 odd years. They renewed their resolve to remain loyal to the leadership of the respected supreme commander with success in the work of public security, always remembering the deep loving care and favours he repeatedly shows for the political guards of the party.

Kim Chong-il Sends Sixtieth Birthday Tables

SK2311120995 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0802 GMT 23 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 23 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent benevolent sixtieth-birthday tables to Dr. So Kwang-hun, labour hero and director of the cable-conveyer-pipeline transport institute of the coal science branch under the National Academy of Sciences, and Chon Tae-son, people's sportswoman and teacher of physical training at the Nanam Senior Middle School, Chongjin City, North Hamgyong Province.

So Kwang-hun, who was born in South Chungchong Province of South Korea in the period of the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists, graduated from a university in the northern half of Korea and has become a scientist.

While working in scientific research for more than 30 years, he greatly contributed to realizing the cable-conveyer-pipeline transport system and wrote 30 kinds of books and treatises, helping toward the nation's scientific and technological development and training of reserves.

Chon Tae-son has devoted all her mental and physical energy to education younger generations for more than 40 years.

During the period, she upgraded the techniques of gymnastic dance of students, who won titles 19 times and carried off 650 golds, 2 championship cups end 4 prize banners.

Kim Chong-il Sends Gift to Broadcasting Official

SK2411032295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0313 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il highly praised Yi Chung-il, a section chief of the North Hamgyong Provincial Broadcasting Committee, and sent a gift to him.

Yi Chung-il, who served at the post of ideological front for many years, wrote a successful article "Noble Virtues of Peerless Great Man" on the great personality and leadership of Comrade Kim Chong- il. He wrote a loyal letter to Comrade Kim Chong-il with the great honor of participating in the national meeting of broadcasting officials.

Comrade Kim Chong-il highly appreciated him and sent him an autograph letter with love and trust and did him benevolent favours.

A meeting was held in Pyongyang on Thursday to convey Comrade Kim Chong-il's gift to him.

In his speech Yi Chung-il renewed his resolution to be a cornerstone and standard-bearer of the ranks on the outpost of the ideological front of the party with a belief that today's happiness and brilliant future of tomorrow are attributable to respected general Kim Chong-il, who stands in the van of revolution.

The meeting was attended by secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Kim Ki-nam and other officials concerned.

A letter of pledge to Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the meeting.

Kim Chong-il Sends Thanks to Steel Complex

SK2511043195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0246 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA) — The great leader comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to workers, technicians and office employees of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex for their feats in repairing a blast furnace.

The employees of the complex had finished in a short period the work of repairing a blast furnace including the disassembling of structures of a 4,000 odd ton blast furnace and the laying of pipes extending 3,500 metres.

Comrade Kim Chong-il also thanked members of the Travelling Art Agitation Troupe of the General Bureau of Land Transport for the examples they set in the agitation for increased production.

Kim Chong-il Sends Gifts to Old Women

SK2511111695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0839 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent centennial birthday tables to Kim Ung-kang in Kaechon City, South Pyongan Province, and Song Hwa-ok in Paechon County, South Hwanghae Province.

The old women said they were happy to live long in a good socialist system and that they were deeply feeling the benevolence of the party and the leader again upon receiving the birthday tables.

Kim Chong-il Sends Thanks to Several Units

SK2711024095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0224 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 27 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to several units for their examples in coal and prop timber production in October. Among the units are the Songnam Youth Coal Mine, Yongdae Coal Mine, Yupyong Forestry Station and South Pyongan Provincial Forestry Management Bureau.

Comrade Kim Chong-il also thanked medical workers and employees of Hospital No. 2 in Tokchon city, South Pyongan Province, who made a big contribution to promoting the health of the working people, the employees of the Wonsan Export Garment Factory, who overfulfilled their plan and produced thousands of suits of padded clothes and provided them to children by tapping inner reserves, and to the officials of the Kangwon Provincial Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea, who gave material and moral assistance to mines.

Kim Chong-il Sends Thanks to Factories

SK2811043095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0229 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 28 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to units in Sariwon city and Sohung and Hwangju counties, North Hwanghae Province, the Taean heavy machine complex, the Pyongyang rubber factory, Kim Sang- ho, chief secretary of the party committee of the Pukchang thermal- power complex, and workers of its materials workshop and other units, officials and working people for setting examples in assisting the People's Army.

Comrade Kim Chong-il also sent thanks to standard-bearers of the Three-Revolution Red Flag Movement in North and South Pyongan Provinces and Yanggang Province, and to the Nampo smeltery complex, the Chagang provincial security bureau and Pak Chong-su unit of the Korean People's Security Forces for doing good things to greet the second conference of forerunners of the Three-Revolution Red Flag Movement.

Kim Chong-il Sends Birthday Tables to Workers

SK2911114695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0844 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 29 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent 70th birthday tables to Kim Myong-chon, worker at Kim Ki-chang factory, and to Kim Won-sop, instructor of the North Hwanghae Provincial Security Bureau.

Kim Myong-chon, who was born in Yongchon County, North Pyongan Province, and made a bare living with labour in his boyhood under the Japanese imperialist colonial rule, has devoted all his wisdom and talents to live up to the benevolence of the great leader President Kim Il-song who gave him a noble political integrity and put him forward as one of the 10 party members in Nakwon.

Kim Won-sop distinguished himself in protecting the lives and property of the people and the country and defending the socialist system of Korean style for nearly 50 years after the liberation of the country.

Russian Writes Poem Hailing Kim Chong-il

SK2411112195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0902 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA) — Russian writer Aleksandr Brezhnev made public epic "General Kim Chong-il".

The poem tells about the glorious and brilliant revolutionary history of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, climaxed by "Long live General Kim Chong-il, great and ever-victorious!"

It says the revolutionary cause of Comrade Kim Il-song, the founder of the chuche idea and a great genius, has been successfully carried forward by Comrade Kim Chong-il, an iron-willed leader.

Noting that General Kim Chong-il is now holding the torch of the chuche idea handed down by Comrade Kim Il-song, the poem quotes General Kim Chong-il as saying all the Korean people will fight for the chuche idea and develop Korean-style socialism until communism emerges victorious.

The poem says General Kim Chong-il is the great successor to the socialist cause started by the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song and is the greatest man in the world.

It also says the revisionists, renegades and all others of the sort are struck and overpowered by the noble sense of obligation of General Kim Chong-il, who is carrying forward the idea, cause and leadership of Comrade Kim Il-song.

It calls for defending socialism based on the immortal chuche idea with struggle as everything done by General Kim Chong-il, an iron-willed brilliant commander, reflects the intention of Comrade Kim Il-song.

It says General Kim Chong-il, who is the greatest commander in the world, steers the biggest ship in the world, the chuche idea and Korean-style socialism.

Praising him as the strongest and greatest man, a splendid morning glow and an eagle flying over grassland, afraid of nothing, the poem says he is a tender-hearted man close and intimate with anyone and the finest son of Korea.

It calls him the greatest brilliant commander and the greatest general in the world.

It also calls on the world people to pride themselves on having Comrade Kim Chong-il of Korea, who brings about a great victory with distinguished intelligence.

It says the presidents, kings and emperors in the world should, though belatedly, know that there is an ever-victorious brilliant commander, who trained himself in the flames of war in his childhood, in beautiful Pyongyang.

At the talks concerning the nuclear issue which drew the attention of the world people, he defeated the International Atomic Energy Agency acting at the beck and call of the United States, with his extraordinary intelligence and yankees knelt down again before the Korean people guided by him, says the poem.

Telling the communists across the world to become all the more courageous with confidence, it says he will bury the bourgeoisie at sea before long.

The poem says Comrade Kim Chong-il, the leader of socialism, clearly indicates the way to be followed by the world revolutionary peoples.

Pointing out that it is Marshal Kim Chong-il who leads the units of socialism, the poem says that, as he is building the invincible socialism of Korean style, the chuche idea is uniting all the progressive movements in the world around itself like magnet.

It notes that by General Kim Chong-il, the torch of socialism was kindled again to remain alive forever and is spreading over the world and that he, with the heart of socialism, is reliably holding the banner of socialism.

The poem, praising Comrade Kim Chong-il as the genius of creation and construction and the great leader of the 21st century, calls on the world to extend glory to him and convey his feats down through centuries.

Kim Chong-il Reportedly Praised by South Korean

SK2711100195 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0916 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 27 (KCNA) — South Korean historian, Prof. Ko Song-yop made public impressions titled "High-toned Cheers 'Long Live General Kim Chong-il'", according to the radio Voice of National Salvation from Seoul.

He wrote this after appreciating the first military world games held in Rome in September.

He said:

Sports games are not merely a competition between strength or between sports technologies but a competition between will and fighting spirit. In such a light, the three figures 4.25 on the breasts of the athletes of the North had a deep meaning.

On April 25, 1932, President Kim Il-song, a legendary hero of the anti-Japanese struggle, founded the Korean People's Revolutionary Army for the liberation of the country.

The revolutionary spirit of April 25, the revolutionary spirit of Mt. Paektu, instilled by General Kim Chong-il, is a proud root of our nation. As this historic root is deeply struck, the North has developed in the waves of trials and the Army has grown up to be an invincible army, a soldier of which is a match for a hundred foes, and the athletes of the North won in matches.

The victory of the North in the women's volleyball game with the United States is certainly the victory of its spirit and courage.

The author of the impressions had this to say:

The athletes of the North have the burning hatred for the United States which has occupied the half of their country for half a century. The spirit with which they must defeat the United States produced such an amazing strength as defeating the opponent by a remarkable margin of scores.

No forth on the earth can conquer the Army and people of the North who are under the command of General Kim Chong-il possessed of matchless grit and boldness and who fully personify them.

The athletes of the North, soldiers of General Kim Chong-il, sing songs stressing that their country is the best, the Korean nation is the best and their general is the best. They also have the sports tactics of the Korean style suited to the physiques of the Koreans. I dare say that this is the source of the victory of the athletes of the North.

Overseas Koreans who went to Rome were attracted by the athletes of the North in the whole period of the game. This was not merely because their scores were good but because they were charmed by the noble spiritual world of the athletes from the North in firmly defending the independence and pride of the nation.

The remarkable achievements made by the athletes of the North Army in the Rome military games is a fine result of the deep trust and meticulous care taken by respected General Kim Chong-il to demonstrate the honor of the country and the dignity of the nation all over the world.

It is only under the bosom of the great leader General Kim Chong- il that the dignity of the nation is exalted and the honor of all the members of the nation is displayed.

The great leader's is, indeed, the bosom of the mother, the homeland and the sun. Under this bosom, the dignity, pride and honor of the nation shine and happiness, joy and honor of its members come into bloom.

The military games in Rome is an instance of this.

Poem on 'Great Leader' Kim Chong-il Made Public

SK2811101195 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0821 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 28 (KCNA) — Shuhachi Inoue, director general of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea, who is the first winner of the "International Kim Il-song Prize", made public "A Poem Dedicated to the Great Leader Kim Chong- il".

The poem says that Comrade Kim Chong-il embraces all people in his bosom of love, taking upon himself all aspirations and all happiness of the world.

It is the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who shows the warmest love for people, being the very image of the great leader President Kim Il-song, it notes.

The poem praises him as a real father, great teacher, genuine protector of destiny of the author and eternal benefactor.

The earth revolves and history flows along the orbit of chuche provided by Comrade Kim Chong-il, the poem says.

He, it notes, is the symbol of socialism, the banner of socialism and the forthcoming 21st century is the century of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

It says that as led by Comrade Kim Chong-il, shining over the world is Korea, bright is a new century of independence and invincible is the cause of socialism.

The poem sincerely wishes the great leader Kim Chong-il, the sun of all people and the eternal banner of chuche, a long and long life in good health, carrying the desire of the advocates of the chuche idea all over the world and the ardent wishes of humankind.

Conference Participants Honor Kim Il-song

SK2911055495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0415 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 29 (KCNA) — The entire participants in the second conference of forerunners of the Three-Revolution Red Flag Movement visited Kumsusan Memorial Palace on November 26 and 28 to pay homage to the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Among them are standard-bearers of the three revolutions from the industrial establishments, cooperative farms and educational, cultural, public health, People's Armed Forces and public security organs and other sectors which won the Three-Revolution Red Flag, and party, administrative, economic and working people's organisation officials of the units which won the Three-Revolution Red Flag, and officials concerned of central, provincial, city and county party committees and economic complexes.

They expressed highest respects with infinite reverence for and loyalty to President Kim Il-song who is preserved in state.

They vowed to accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche, the cause of socialismgn holding higher the banner of the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, under the guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Trees Planted Around Kumsusan Memorial Palace

SK2411111995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0803 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA) — People of broad segments visited Kumsusan Memorial Palace, the supreme holy land of chuche, with deep reverence for the respected leader President Kim Il-song and planted a large number of rare trees on the historic garden of the palace associated with his sacred marks.

On Thursday the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea planted over 1,400 trees of 25 species such as fir, pine-nut, Chinese juniper, trifoliate pine and azalea, which are associated with fidelity of agricultural workers across the country.

Earlier, on Nov. 17, officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs planted 50 odd trees including pine-nut, magnolia and red plum blossoms.

Pak Song-chol at Meeting on Army-People Unity

SK2711041095 Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean 1100 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting was held on the spot to award the title of Army-People Unity Exemplary District to Songchonggang District in Hamhung.

Comrade Pak Song-chol, relevant officials, district workers, and soldiers of the People's Army attended the meeting.

At the meeting, the decree of the DPRK Central People's Committee was read and citations were awarded.

Comrade Pak Song-chol awarded decorations and medals to functionaries and workers in the Songchonggang District who showed a fine example by brightly blooming the traditional laudable custom of Army-people unity.

Discussions and speeches followed. Those who participated in the discussions consolidated the determination to further glorify our nation and our fatherland by firmly establishing the trait of attaching importance to military affairs throughout society with pride in living in an exemplary district of Army-people unity and by continually bringing our party's idea on Army-people unity into full bloom.

Daily Urges Implementation of Party's Slogan

SK2911103295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0821 GMT 29 Nov 95

["NODONG SINMUN Calls For Thorough Implementation of Party's Slogan" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 29 (KCNA) — It is a consistent policy of the Workers' Party of Korea to push ahead with socialist construction, true to the slogan "Let us meet the requirements of chuche in ideology, technology and culture!" And the slogan should be implemented thoroughly, says NODONG SINMUN in an editorial today.

The editorial says that the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, with deep insight into the great significance and importance of the three revolutions in modelling the whole of society on the chuche idea, put forward the revolutionary slogan "Let us meet the requirements of chuche in ideology, technology and culture!" 20 years ago, and has given wise guidance over the work to carry it through.

It further says:

What is important in thoroughly implementing the party's slogan is for all the party members and other working people to firmly arm themselves with the chuche idea, the revolutionary idea of our party, and to remain unfailingly loyal to the guidance of the party.

All the party members and other working people should fully understand that the chuche idea is the lifeline of the Korean revolution and banner of victory, regard the chuche idea as their only faith and live and work as demanded by the idea.

They should remain loyal to Comrade Kim Chong-il's idea and leadership, with a good knowledge that only when they remain faithful to his guidance, is it possible to achieve with credit the objective of meeting the requirements of chuche in ideology, technology and culture.

In order to implement the party's slogan thoroughly, it is also necessary to dynamically accelerate the socialist economic and cultural construction with firm chuche-based stand.

The line of building an independent national economy should firmly be maintained in all domains of the national economy and all knotty problems should be resolved by their own efforts so as to hasten the chuche-orientation of the national economy.

It is essential to invariably maintain our party's chuche-based line of socialist cultural construction and continue developing Korean-style culture in the domain of cultural building.

For the full implementation of the party's slogan it is necessary to steadily develop in depth the three-revolution red flag movement.

The three-revolution red flag movement is an all-people mass movement to push ahead with the three revolutions—ideological, technical and cultural—and accelerate socialist construction in conformity with the requirements of the modelling of the whole of society on the chuche idea. All domains and all units should more vigorously carry on the movement to meet the demand of the revolutionary development so as to make all the members chuche-type revolutionaries loyal to the party and the leader, put spurs on the work for the chuche-orientation, modernisation and scientisation of the national economy and bring about a new turn in the building of socialist national culture.

Trade Unions Federation Anniversary Observed

SK2911111895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0829 GMT 29 Nov 95

["NODONG SINMUN Observes GFTUK Anniversary" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 29 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN today carries an article titled "Trade Unions Are Reliable Assistants and Defenders of Our Party" contributed by Chairman of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea [GFTUK] Central Committee Chu Song-il on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the organization (November 30, 1945).

Saying the 50 years of the GFTUK is a history of the great leadership of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who wisely guided the working class and its organization with deep trust, the article elaborates on deep concern he paid to its work.

The article further says:

Respected Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has successfully carried into practice Comrade Kim Il-song's chuche-oriented idea of building trade unions, has given meticulous guidance to the work of the GFTUK to make it fully realise his idea and leadership, faithful to the guidance of the party.

The GFTUK, which was founded and led by Comrade Kim Il-song and has developed under the meticulous guidance and care of respected General Kim Chong-il, is a reliable defender and assistant of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The article quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"The trade unions are mass political organizations of the working class and dependable assistants and defenders of the party. They must re-educate the industrial workers and other members to rally closely around the party and mobilize them dynamically into the revolutionary struggle and construction work."

The article continues:

The GFTUK is an organization which educates the working class and the unionists to be unfailingly loyal and devoted to the party and the leader and which encourages them to work hard to implement the party's line and policies.

Today our working class and unionists regard the loyalty to the party and the leader as their faith, conscience, morality and daily life and are working hard for the accomplishment of the socialist cause of chuche with firm resolution under the leadership of the party and the leader. This is attributable to the GFTUK thoroughly implementing the party's policy of ideological education.

The GFTUK takes it as the most important task to vigorously carry on the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural. Our party put forward the line of three revolutions in order to completely free the working masses from fetters of old ideologies, technology and culture and provide them with an independent and creative life and has guided all the people to thoroughly fulfil the tasks of the revolutions.

The GFTUK is also a strong organization which vigorously encourages the working class and the unionists to socialist economic construction.

The unions are active helpers of the party which powerfully arouse the working class and unionists in the efforts to accelerate the socialist economic construction as intended by the party.

Over the past five decades the GFTUK has creditably discharged the honorable mission and duty as a reliable helper and defender of the party under the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Il-song and General Kim Chong-il, remaining faithful to the party's guidance.

We will as ever fully discharge our revolutionary duty in defending Comrade Kim Chong-il politically, ideologically and devotedly in any adversity and developing our-style socialism by keeping it pure in ideology and united organizationally.

Second Conference of Three-Revolution Movement

SK2311053495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0311 GMT 23 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 23 (KCNA) — The second conference of forerunners of the three-revolution red flag movement will be held in Pyongyang, the capital of revolution, on November 29 and 30, 1995.

The conference will sum up the achievements and experience which have been made in the course of vigorously conducting the three- revolution red flag movement under the wise leadership of the party and the leader in the past and discuss the tasks and ways for developing in depth the movement in keeping with the requirements of the developing situation.

It will be attended by three revolution standard-bearers from factories, enterprises, cooperative farms, institutions of science, education, culture and public health and other units, which won the three-revolution red flag, and officials of the party, the government, administrative and economic organs and working people's organisations.

The conference is held 20 years since the three-revolution red flag movement started.

It will be a significant conference to powerfully demonstrate the validity and vitality of the three-revolution red flag movement and make another landmark in development of the movement and a historic conference to encourage and stir up the struggle of the Korean people for accomplishing socialism and the revolutionary cause of chuche under the banner of the three revolutions — ideological, technical and cultural, the general line of the party.

Reporters Interview Scientists on Ancient Korea

OW2211010295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 21 (KCNA) — Korean social scientists were interviewed on Monday [20 November] by reporters of JOSON SINPO under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), regarding achievements in the study of Tankun and ancient Korea.

Attending the interview were associate academicians, professors and doctors of history and archaeology and other scientists and a delegation of the Association of Korean Historians and Archaeologists in Japan.

Associate academician, Prof. and Dr. Kim Chol-sik, first vice- president of the Academy of Social Sciences, spoke in the interview.

He elaborated on achievements made in the deep-going study of the history of Tankun and ancient Korea from the chuche-based point of view under the wise guidance of the great leader President Kim Il- song and the great leader General Kim Chong-il.

"Through research work we confirmed Tankun as a creature of real flesh and flood, verified that Tankun was the founder of ancient Korea and proved on a scientific basis that Tankun Korea was a monarchic state of slave holders built in the early 30th century B.C.," he said, and went on:

"Verification of the capital and territory of ancient Korea was a significant success. It was proved more clearly by documentary materials and archaeological relics and by geographical survey that Pyongyang area was the birthplace of Tankun.

"These achievements have come to light through three rounds of scientific symposiums on Tankun and ancient Korea.

"But, the groundless slanders and distortion of historical materials by some conservative scholars and press of South Korea cast more suspicion on what their real intention is."

Answering the questions put by reporters, social scientists explained with concrete materials the great achievements made by the Korean academic circles in the study of Tankun and ancient Korea.

Lawyers Urge Release of Pak Yong-kil

SK2211075095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0413 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 21 (KCNA) — The International Association of Democratic Lawyers published a statement on November 12 demanding the release of Mrs. Pak Yong-kil who had visited Pyongyang in July. Noting that the South Korean authorities arrested and prosecuted Pak Yong-kil, widow of Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, the statement said this is violation of Article 13 of Chapter 2 of the World Declaration of Human Rights on the right to freedom of travel and Articles 18 and 19 of the World Declaration of Human Rights on the freedom of ideology, views and expression.

The statement urged the South Korean authorities to repeal the atrocious "National Security Law" at once and release all persons including Pak Yong-kil who had visited the northern half of Korea.

Coal Mining Equipment Output Up 30 Percent

SK2211095095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0835 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 22 (KCNA) — Coal mining machine factories are increasing production in Korea.

According to sources of the Associated Bureau for Mining Machine Industry, the production of coal mining equipment and accessories went up 30 percent in the first twenty days of November as against the same days of October.

In the days, the May 10 General Factory and the Pyongyang Coal Mining Machine Plant overfulfilled their daily assignments at more than 140 percent by quickening the procession of machines.

The Hoeryong Coal Mining Machine Plant, which surpassed its plan target by far in October, is topping its daily quotas by more than 30 percent. The Chonchon Rock-Drill Factory, the August 9 Factory, the Sariwon Coal Mining Machine Plant and the August 28 Factory, too, are boosting the production of rock-drills, coal trucks, coal-loaders and other equipment and accessories needed by coal mines.

Pyongyang Municipal People's Hospital Opens

SK2311121295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0755 GMT 23 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 23 (KCNA) — Pyongyang Municipal People's Hospital No. 3 has been built on a new basis.

The hospital, built in Kwangbok Street in Mangyongdae District, has a total floor space of 17,000 square metres. It has a seven- storeyed in-patient ward with 500 beds, an out-patient ward, pharmacist's offices and supply service facilities.

The hospital includes 37 clinical sections and five special pharmacist's offices. It is splendidly equipped with up-to-date medical apparatuses and facilities including a multi-purpose operation stand, an abdominal ultrasonic diagnosis machine and an abdominal cavity watcher. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song saw to it that a modern people's hospital was built in Kwangbok Street and urged workers on several occasions to build it splendidly while guiding its construction until the last moment of his life.

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il took measures to step up the construction of the hospital, taking deep care of it so that it was built in a splendid way.

The hospital is associated with sincere patriotism of the members of the North American Christian Medical Council, who presented up- to-date medical facilities out of their love for the socialist motherland.

Comrade Kim Chong-il took a measure to erect a "monument to loyalty" for them.

An opening ceremony of the hospital was held on Wednesday.

Anniversary of Physical Culture Observed

SK2411032795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0321 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA) — A meeting took place here on Thursday [23 November] to mark the 50th anniversary of the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission.

Vice-Premier of the Administration Council Chang Chol conveyed a message of felicitations of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to the officials of the commission.

The message recalls that after the liberation of the country the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song with deep insight into the importance of physical culture and sports in the building of a new country founded the union of sportsmen in North Korea, the predecessor of the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission, on November 1, 1945, and wisely led the development of the nation's physical culture and sports and the work of the commission at every period and every stage of the developing revolution.

The commission has solved all the problems arising in the development of physical culture and sports in the basic interests of our revolution and in conformity with the features of the Korean people, has overcome flunkeyism and dogmatism and has made great contributions to the development of physical culture and sports of Korean style, through the embodiment of the party's policy of thoroughly establishing chuche in physical culture and sports, the message says.

The message expresses the firm belief that the officials of the commission will cherish the revolutionary faith that Comrade Kim Il- song will always be with them, achieve singlehearted unity around the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, gain greater achievements in the fulfillment of their revolutionary tasks and live up to the party's trust and expectations with credit.

Pak Myong-chol, chairman of the commission, made a report at the meeting.

He said that all the officials of the commission, true to the highly important teachings of Comrade Kim Il-song, have made strenuous efforts for the generalisation of sports among masses and, in this course, fully discharged their duty for the successful realisation of his idea and his guidance over physical culture and sports .

The State Physical Culture and Sports Commission should do its bit as an organisation for the unified guidance over the nation's physical culture and sports and bring about changes in physical culture and sports under the guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il, he added.

Symposium Held on Literature, Art

SK2511043595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0249 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA) — A symposium on the chuche-based idea of literature and art concerning the Monument to Party Foundation was held here on November 23. The monument was built on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Speeches were made at the symposium on the subjects "The Monument to Party Foundation, a Result of the Faith and Loyalty of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il To Exalt the Cause of Party Building of Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song for All the Ages," "The monument to Party Foundation, an Immortal Symbol of the Glorious Workers' Party of Korea," etc.

The speakers said that the monument is an edifice of eternal value that shows the immortal Exploits and Greatness of the Respected Leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who founded the glorious WPK and strengthened it into the greatest party. It is a great creation that will brightly decorate the 20th century, they added.

Noting that respected respected Comrade Kim Chong-il elucidated the contents and form of the monument, they explained its unique composition.

Over 330,000 Visit Kumsusan Palace Since 8 Jul

SK2511065495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0644 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA) — Kumsusan Memorial Palace where the great leader President Kim Il-song is preserved in state has been visited by people for 100 days since it was opened on July 8, 1995.

Over 330,000 Korean people, servicemen, South Korean and overseas compatriots and foreigners visited the palace to pay deep homage to President Kim Il-song during the time.

On Nov. 23, the 100th day of visits to Kumsusan Memorial Palace, 3,000 odd officials of different units such as the Ministry of the Coal Industry, the Ministry for Natural Resources Development and the Mansudae Art Studio, officials of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea, officers and men of the Korean People's Army, overseas compatriots and foreigners visited the palace and keenly felt the greatness of President Kim Il-song, the eternal sun of chuche, remembering his brilliant life.

The visitors made their firm pledge to thoroughly carry out the behests of President Kim Il-song so that they can display the Korean style socialism all over the world, closely united around the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, their destiny and life and soul.

Foreigners expressed their deepest reverence for President Kim Il-song, who performed immortal exploits for independence of humankind.

Daily Says WPK Unites With People in Struggle

SK2611083295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0706 GMT 26 Nov 95

["NODONG SINMUN on WPK's Consistent Principle of Activity" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 26 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, in his famous work "the Workers' Party of Korea Is the Party of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song", expounded in a comprehensive way the precious experiences of the WPK, which has led the revolution and construction to brilliant victory, performing great achievements. An important idea here is that the WPK has always defended the demand and interests of the popular masses and relied on them in leading the revolution and construction and fought as an integral whole with people.

NODONG SINMUN today stresses this in a signed article titled: "It Is Our Party's Consistent Principle of Activity To Weld With the People in the Struggle".

The article says:

Our party has constantly maintained the principle of formulating all its lines and policies by truthfully reflecting and incorporating the will and requirements of the popular masses. And it has resolutely kept to the principle of solving all the problems arising in the revolution and construction by always enlisting the strength and wisdom of the masses.

It is the firm faith of our party that the masses are a teacher in every aspect and their will and requirements for independence become ideas, lines and policies, if they are incorporated and systematized.

So our party has always gone among the masses, giving ear to their voices and formulated all its lines and policies on the basis of the full knowledge of their requirement and interests.

The party has never placed its hope on others or relied on their strength, though it was faced with very difficult and enormous tasks under any unfavourable conditions.

If there are people and their strength and wisdom are enlisted there will be no problem to be unsolved. This is the steadfast faith of our party.

Therefrom, our party has worked firmly regarding the method of giving rein to the revolutionary zeal and creative wisdom of the masses as the most powerful weapon for the revolution and construction.

All lines and policies of our party have been worked out on the basis of its firm faith in the masses' tireless efforts and revolutionary zeal.

Our party has also made tireless efforts to realize the kinship with the masses.

Today our party and people are an integral whole with same idea, purpose, sentiment, fighting spirit and working style.

The party believes in the people and deeply loves them and the latter absolutely trust the former and remain loyal to it. The singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses based on this blood relations has been cemented as firm as rock and the revolutionary zeal and creative force of the masses have been fully displayed.

It is entirely thanks to the seasoned leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and respected Comrade Kim Chong-il that our party could demonstrate itself as the most dignified and powerful revolutionary party, performing great achievements together with the masses along the prolonged course.

Book Publishing House Anniversary Marked

SK2811041695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0257 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 28 (KCNA) — A meeting was held here on Monday to mark the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Educational Book Publishing House.

A congratulatory message sent by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to the journalists and editors of the publishing house was read out at the meeting.

The message said that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song scientifically expounded the importance and the role of textbooks, a basic weapon for the educational work, and wisely led the work of educational book publication, indicating its most correct direction and ways in every period and at every stage of the development of revolution.

The message highly appreciated the great achievements made by the journalists and editors of the publishing house in publishing educational books with ardent loyalty to the party and the leader in the past 50 years.

The journalists and editors of the educational book publishing house should live up to confidence and expectation of the party, by carrying out their revolutionary duty better, rallied in one mind around the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, it stressed.

Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, was present at the meeting.

Pyongyang To Host 2d Red Flag Movement Conference

SK2811094695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0830 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 28 (KCNA) -- The second conference of Forerunners of the Three-Revolution Red Flag Movement is to be held in Pyongyang.

The meeting is held in this significant year, the 20th anniversary of the start of the movement.

There have been energetic mass movements to accelerate the revolution and construction under the guidance of the party and the leader in Korea over the past 50 years after its liberation from the Japanese imperialist colonial rule.

The great leader President Kim Il-song said:

"At each stage of revolutionary development, our party has initiated mass movements of different kinds and promoted them to meet the needs of the revolution and the revolutionary aspirations and preparedness of the masses."

Immediately after liberation with a view to laying economic foundations for the building of a new democratic Korea President Kim Il-song initiated the movement of labor heroes and aroused all the people to the movement.

With the insight into the harmfulness of the old ideological survivals of the Japanese imperialists to the ideological life of the people, who have a high degree of zeal to build the country, he proposed to conduct the general ideological mobilisation movement for building the country, the campaign against illiteracy, the patriotic movement for increased production and the patriotic rice donation movement.

The "My Heights" movement, the plane-hunter team movement, the sniper's movement, and other mass movements conducted at the proposal of Comrade Kim Il-song and under his guidance during the last fatherland liberation war (June 25, 1950-July 27, 1953) were very instrumental in repulsing the armed invasion on the part of the imperialist allied forces.

After the cease-fire Korea witnessed the Chollima movement initiated by Comrade Kim Il-song, the like of which could not be found in the world, and other mass movements to push ahead with the socialist revolution and construction.

The five-year plan was fulfilled in two years and six months in industrial output value and in four years on indices of products and the first seven-year plan was carried out with credit to see the fulfilment of the historical task of socialist industrialisation in 14 years in the heat of the Chollima movement.

The Chollima movement developed in depth into the Chollima workteam movement. Working people at more than 87,000 units became Chollima riders from March 1959 to the end of 1970.

The mass movements initiated and led by President Kim Il-song have strengthened and developed on to a new higher stage under the energetic guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Comrade Kim Chong-il's wise guidance has resulted in accelerating the three-revolution red flag movement, a communist mass movement of the highest form, to meet the requirements of chuche in ideology, technology and culture, and other mass movements in the whole party, the whole Army, working people's organisations and domains up to this date from the 1970s.

The brisk army-people unity model county movement has been conducted in the 1990s, some 20 cities, counties and districts becoming the title winners.

With the mass movements growing in scope and strength an increasing number of people have grown to be chuche-type communist revolutionaries, who believe in the party and the leader alone and devote their all to the country and people, and Korea has developed and consolidated as an anthropocentric socialist country—independent in politics, self-sustenant in the economy and self-reliant in national defence.

Silk Producing Area Highlighted

SK2411111595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0746 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA) — Yongbyon County, North Pyongan Province of Korea, is a famous silk producer.

From ancient times, light, fine-colored and soft silk has been produced with raw silk from silkworms in the area.

After the liberation of the country the government saw to it that silk mills were built in the county to fully meet the people's demand for silk.

The great leader President Kim Il-song gave on-the-spot guidance to the Yongbyon silk mill in April 1956. He said silk of Yongbyon was a special product of Korea and a wide variety of quality silk should be produced in large quantities.

In June that year, he saw samples of silk produced by the mill and named the azalea-patterned silk "Yaksandan."

The mill equipped the production processes with figured texture machines and other modern machines and expanded the scope of production considerably.

It produces millions of metres of silk every year.

The variety of silk produced by the mill numbers more than 60 and many kinds of silk including polychromatic silk and damask silk are popular in foreign markets.

Besides this mill, there are several other silk mills in the county.

Increase of Coal Production Viewed

SK2711100495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0920 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 27 (KCNA) — Coal production is continuing to increase at coal mines of Korea.

Coal mines in North Hamgyong Province such as the Myongchon, Onsong and Saeppyol area coal complexes increased coal output three percent in the last 40 odd days as against the previous same period.

Especially, the Myongchon area coal complex put up the capital tunnelling rate 18.5 percent, preparatory tunnelling rate 27.4 percent and coal production 13.6 percent during the period.

The Kocham, Myongchon, Ilsin and Hwasong coal mines made the mining equipment large-sized, modernized and high-speed so that they raised daily coal output 20 to 30 percent compared with last month.

The Kocham coal mine, in the first 20 days of this month, produced over 3,000 more tons than in the same period of last month.

The Pukchang area coal complex raised capital tunnelling rate 40 percent, preparatory tunnelling rate 50 percent and coal output 70 percent this month above last month.

It produced several thousand more tons in the last 15 days than the previous days.

The Kangdong, Anju, Kaechon and Sunchon area coal complexes and other mines are enhancing the level of mechanization of cutting faces and operating the equipment at full capacity to increase coal output.

'Modern' Houses Built in Flood-Stricken Huichon

SK2711114695 Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean 1100 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New modern houses were magnificently built in a short time in some flood-stricken areas in Huichon city due to the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's great love and consideration. A meeting to mark the moving into the new houses was held on the spot.

During the meeting, Comrade Yon Hyong-muk first of all delivered the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's consideration of providing new houses to the flood victims. Next, a resolution was made and discussions were held. The debaters gave greatest thanks to the respected and beloved [kyongaehanun] Comrade Kim Chong-il, who took consideration in building more houses in Huichon city to sufficiently provide modern and stable living conditions to our people, and resolved to loyally repay today's love and consideration. When the meeting ended, housewarming gatherings were held in various areas of the city.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Many in Huichon city are moving to new houses at the same day and time.

[Kim Nak-hung, vice chairman of the Huichon city Administrative and Economic Committee] Yes, that is so. Currently in various tong's and ri's in Huichon city, people are simultaneously moving to houses built amid the pride of the culture of the Workers Party era.

[Reporter] How are the people moving into the new houses built so quickly and magnificently? Can you comment on this?

[Kim] In mid-August, Huichon city suffered from the greatest torrential rain in history and some regions were damaged. The great general who seeks delight from the people's happiness, sent all necessary daily necessities to the flood victims in the flood- stricken areas and took measures so that the whole nation assists these regions. Also, various materials necessary in construction were all sent by the great general. To convey the great general's love and consideration all the more quickly and well, Huichon city carried out construction operations and command ambitiously. Thus, all plants and enterprises in the city, including city-level organizations, vigorously launched in the work to accelerate the construction of the houses. Deeply moved by the general's love and consideration, builders of the houses who were blazing in their hearts did not leave the construction site.

[Reporter] The houses as such were built quickly, right?

[Han Ki-ok, manager of the Construction Ministry] Yes, that is so. When we started construction, we actively used materials and local materials sent by the great general, thus, some 240 houses our enterprise was in charge of and some 400 houses needing general overhaul were built into modern houses in just two months.

[Reporter] How many houses in all were built in Huichon city?

[Han] Some 1,100 houses were built. We completed the construction of covering the floor with laminated paper, and are now holding a housewarming gathering in some 586 houses that were completely finished. The remaining of the construction for the rest of the houses which are in their last stages will be completely finished in a few days so that the great general's love and consideration will be all the more felt.

[Reporter] Due to our party's love and benevolence, you now became the owners of the new houses. What are your impressions?

[Kim Han-kun] I have moved to this place. Our respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il embraced us with fortune. I really am grateful.

[Kim Chong-hui] Yes, that is so. I do not know how to express this gratitude toward the respected and beloved general. We will deeply bear in our hearts this gratitude toward the respected and beloved general who is our rescuer, guardian, and benevolent father, and our family will fulfill loyalty and filial piety generation after generation. [end recording]

Frugal Use of Electricity Urged

SK2911071495 Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean 0116 GMT 21 Nov 95

[From "the Social-Cultural Life" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Water—which is very familiar to everyone and the benefit of which everyone takes for granted—is one of the means of life and production inseparable to man's life even for one moment.

People use 200 to 250 liters of water each day for their daily life. Although they use as much water as this daily, not many people will want to know how they use it and throw it away.

However, water is the most precious thing although it seems so abundant. People will know the preciousness of water better if they learn how water reaches from the reservoir to the residents and how much electricity is needed for it.

This is the reservoir which supplies water to the residents of a certain district. To collect one cubic meter of water in this reservoir, we need 0.15 kwh of electricity. The water in this reservoir goes to the distributing reservoirs in various places of the district, for which we need 0.12 kwh per cubic meter of water.

The water in the distributing reservoir is supplied to each house through the pumping stations which send water to the houses in several apartments. Here again, to supply one cubic meter of water, we need 0.25 kwh of electricity.

In other words, to carry one cubic meter of water from the reservoir to a house 4km away, we need 0.52 kwh of electricity. Assuming that the 40,000 persons of the district use about 94,000 cubic meters of water per day, we need 1,425 kwh of electricity per hour.

Assuming that each plant uses 50 kwh of electricity per hour, the electricity necessary for the production of water for the residents of one district is 25 to 30 times as much as the electricity necessary for the operation of one plant. The electricity consumption by this district, the pumping stations of which are not far from the reservoir, is as much as this. So you can imagine how much electricity is needed for other districts which are farther from the reservoir.

From this, you will understand we cannot supply any water at all without using the country's precious electricity.

Then what would happen if you waste water thinking that water is always abundant? For instance, this is a pumping station which supplies water to one block of 30-story apartment. To supply water to all the dwellings here for 10 hours per day, we need 1,850 kwh of electricity. If each dwelling wastes away 20 liters of water—10 liters each from the two water taps—, the waste of water sent from the pumping station will be no less than 16,000 liters. This is equivalent to 37 kwh of electricity, which is the electricity necessary for watching television with some 900 television sets.

If each dwelling wastes 20 liters of water each day, it wastes the electricity necessary for watching television for one hour.

Therefore, all houses and working people should use water sparingly with the high awareness that saving water is saving electricity.

In the first place, all the family members of each house should manage the water taps well to prevent water from running wastefully and make efforts so that even one drop of water may be used effectively for life.

Second, it is important that the water-supply and sewerage management offices make water-saving devices and introduce them.

[Begin unidentified person recording] This is a water-saving device which automatically blocks water in the bathtubs of all houses to prevent water from overflowing the bathtub, thus relieving houses of the burden of spending time in filling up the bathtub. The structure of the device consists of the connecting part and the water cutting-off part. The water cutting-off part consists of the rubber packing, shaft, lever, and [word indistinct]. The device functions in the following way. When the water comes out in the direction indicated by the arrow, it pushes the shaft, and [word indistinct] with the force of pushing by the shaft from the force of water. When the bathtub is filled with water, the buzzer operates, and water is automatically blocked because the shaft is pushed downward through the lever. [end recording]

With the introduction of the water-saving devices, it is good to install the water taps in which valves become thinner on higher floors. Then, on lower floors, where the pressure is higher with larger quantity of water, the space of valve in the tap gets smaller, reducing the excessive flow of water, thereby supplying water saved this way to higher floors. If this is done, water is not only saved, but also reduces the number of the pumping stations from four to three, thus saving much electricity.

All our working people should have sufficient knowledge about water and electricity, and economize water as best as possible with higher awareness of the relations between water and electricity and with higher self-awareness and social interest befitting masters.

South Korea

U.S. Envoy Comments on Trade Agreement

SK2911035795 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 28 Nov 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Ambassador to the ROK James Laney said on 27 November that "The United States hopes that fair game rules are applied in trade with the ROK and that the Korean people do not react to this emotionally."

During a special lecture geared towards public policy students of the Graduate School of Administration at Seoul National University on the afternoon of 27 November at Seoul National University's Hoam Professors Hall, Ambassador Laney gave a speech on "Pending Tasks in ROK-U.S. Relations and Future Prospects." In the speech, he pointed out that "the ROK's attitude of seeking its own interests is not that of a friend, and that the United States hopes that the ROK acts on the basis of mutual benefit."

Concerning the issue of revising the Status of Forces Agreement [SOFA], Ambassador Laney noted that "the ongoing work to revise the SOFA will be in compliance with the level of other allies, including Japan." He added that "expansion of ROK Government's jurisdiction and the issue of upgrading the legal rights of U.S. Forces stationed in the ROK will be included in the revision of the SOFA."

South Pursues Right To Detain Indicted GIs

SK2911081095 Seoul YONHAP in English 0739 GMT 29 Nov 95

[By Hwang Tu-hyong]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 29 (YONHAP)—South Korea is pursuing the right to detain American servicemen accused of crimes here immediately after indictment, a Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

The current Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) here stipulates that such soldiers be handed over to Korean authorities after the conclusion of all judicial proceedings.

"We also want to abolish some clauses of SOFA including those on the timing and methods of taking into custody accused American servicemen here," said the source, "with the presence of an official of the United States Forces in Korea (USFK) during any questioning by Korean authorities of American soldiers accused and with inspections by USFK officials of detention facilities for the accused Americans."

He also briefed reporters on Thursday's meeting for SOFA's revision, which will have Foreign Ministry's American Affairs Bureau Director General Yim Sung-chun representing Seoul and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific John Hall leading Washington's delegation.

Foreign Minister Kong No-myong and U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry agreed early this month that the two sides would start talks on revising the accord during the last week of the month. At the time, both also agreed to set the target date for the conclusion of the talks for the end of next January.

South Korea also wants to lift the SOFA clause which restricts the right of the Korean prosecution to appeal in dealing with cases involving American servicemen and their dependents, he said.

It also wants those articles revised to accommodate changes in bilateral relations and social systems of the country during the past five years, with both sides having last revised SOFA in 1990.

The official said that detention center facilities and the issue of human rights of the accused have both greatly improved here over past years, adding that these factors should be considered during Thursday's SOFA talks.

The U.S. side has consistently expressed concerns over possible human rights violations against accused American soldiers by Korean law enforcement authorities.

On the question if Seoul will agree to change only procedures for SOFA rather than in the agreement itself, as the U.S. side has consistently insisted on during past negotiations, the source said, "The South Korean Government has never said anything about changes only in procedures and not changes in SOFA itself."

"Our initial goal is to simplify SOFA itself because any ambiguity could lead to a vague interpretation at any stage of implementation," he said.

However, he noted, "We will not have to stick to changes in SOFA itself if we can achieve our goals through changes in procedures without touching SOFA itself.

"We will also have to take into consideration balance and parallel with SOFAs that the U.S. has with other countries during negotiations with the U.S. side," he said.

Some articles of the SOFA here are better and others worse compared to the other military agreements that the U.S. has with other nations, he said, dismissing public notion that Seoul's deal is the worst.

For example, if the Okinawa case had taken place here, South Korea could have taken custody of the offenders, he said, adding "South Korea's SOFA has a clause to that effect, although Japan has no such clause."

He was referring to Clause 5, Article 22 of the Korea-U.S. SOFA which stipulates that "When an accused has been in the custody of the military authorities of the United States, the military authorities of the United States may transfer custody to the authorities of the Republic of Korea, and shall give sympathetic consideration to any request for the transfer of custody which may be made by the authorities of the Republic of Korea in specific cases."

Seoul regularly meets with Washington on protecting the environment of American bases in the country, which is not the case in Japan, according to the official.

Furthermore, Japan's SOFA allows Japanese authorities to take custody of American soldiers just after they are indicted by Japanese prosecutors, while the South Korean and European editions stipulate that indicted American servicemen be handed over to the host nation's authorities after conclusion of all legal procedures, he said.

On the issue of jurisdiction, Korean and Japanese SOFAs call for U.S. personnel be tried in the courts of host countries while the European version calls for the accused to stand trial in American military courts, he said.

DPRK Agents Carry 'Pen-Shaped Toxic Guns'

SK2911105795 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1018 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been confirmed that North Korean agents in South Korea use up-to-date fountain pen-shaped toxic guns. Today, the Agency for National Security Planning opened a toxic gun carried by the North Korean agent Kim Tong-sik who was caught on 24 October in Puyo, South Chungchong Province, and publicly conducted a test of the toxic gun. As a result of its performance test, the 13 cm-long fountain pen-shaped toxic gun was confirmed to be powerful enough to penetrate a 7 mm-thick wooden panel located three meters away.

South Becomes North's 3d Largest Trading Partner

SK2911072295 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 29 Nov 95 p 9

[FBIS Transcribed Text] South Korea is North Korea's third largest trading partner after China and Japan, according to the National Statistical Office (NSO).

Last year, trade between two Koreas amounted to 190 million dollars. North Korea's trade with China and

Japan totalled 620 and 490 million dollars, respectively, the office said.

Wages in South Korea are 10-20 times those in North Korea in 1990, the NSO said.

The average life expectancy was 71.3 years in South Korea in 1990, seven years higher than that in North Korea. There are more specialized hospitals, including mental hospitals, in the North than in the South. In 1986, there were as many as 338 tuberculosis treatment centers, 263 leprosy hospitals and 189 mental hospitals in the North, far higher than the five, one and 35, respectively, in the South.

North Korean universities are more geared toward engineering and science while South Korean universities have more students in the liberal arts than in engineering and science, it said. Sixty-two percent of North Korean college students majored in engineering and science in 1990 as opposed to 41 percent of South Korean students, the NSO said.

The ratio of foreign debt to GNP was 50.3 percent for the North, far higher than the 15.1 percent in the South last year, it said.

The ratio of debt against GNP was 10 percent in the North, far lower than the 52.6 percent in the South last year.

South Korea's trade volume was 94 times as large as North Korea's last year, the office said. Farmers accounted for 13.1 percent in the South and 37.6 percent in the North last year, it said.

Per-capita military spending totalled 293.1 dollars last year in the South, greater than North Korea's 246.6 dollars, the NSO said. It said that, since 1980, the South has spent more on the military than the North.

It also reported that more than 70 percent of the population in both South and North Korea was born after 1950 when the Korean War broke out: 72.9 percent in the South and 78.5 percent in the North. Eighty-three percent of the population on the Korean Peninsula was born after 1948 when it was divided.

Both South and North Koreans have a common preference for male babies. It said 101.4 male babies were born for every 100 female babies in the South and 101 in the North last year.

Population grew faster in the North than in the South. Between 1950 and 1995, the population growth rate was 1.75 percent in the South; lower than the North's 2.02 percent. There are 44.85 million people in the South, a larger population than the North's 23.26 million, it said.

Economic, Population Statistics Compared

SK2911071795 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 29 Nov 95 p 9

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Yi Yang Becomes UN Systems Bureau Head

SK2911111595 Seoul YONHAP in English 0833 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 29 (YONHAP) — The Foreign Ministry Wednesday announced the appointment of Yi Yang as director general of its United Nations Systems Bureau.

The incumbent UN Systems Bureau Chief Ham Myog-chol will replace Yi as deputy chief of South Korea's UN mission.

A graduate of Seoul National University law school, Yi has served as deputy director general of the ministry's European Affairs Bureau, researcher at the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security and counselor at the South Korean Embassy in Germany.

Ham has studied at Korea University and University of Virginia in the United States, having majored in English. In addition to having having served as minister of Seoul's UN mission in 1993, he has also worked in various capacities at South Korean missions in Austria and Hungary, as well as deputy director general of the ministry's Treaties Bureau.

Draft Agreement for Trade, Cooperation Finalized

SK2911052895 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 29 Nov 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] European Commission vice president Sir Leon Brittan and Foreign Minister Kong No-myong yesterday agreed that bilateral preparations for a "framework agreement for trade and cooperation" should be hurried up to allow the two sides to sign the agreement soon.

Brittan arrived in Seoul yesterday for the Korea-E.U. ministerial meeting focusing on the signing of the agreement which is regarded as a "legal and institutional" foundation for bilateral relations.

Korea and the European Union finalized a draft framework agreement in a preparatory meeting before the annual ministerial meeting chaired by Deputy Foreign Minister Son Chun-yong and Deputy Director General for External Economic Relations Gianluigi Giola.

"Both sides made substantial progress in the framework agreement and agreed to wrap up internal procedures as soon as possible," a ministry official said.

Seoul is expected to hear the opinions of the branches of government concerned to decide whether to accept the draft agreement or to ask for some revisions, the official said. The European Commission will also start similar procedures through consultations with member countries, he added.

If both parties manage to initial the framework agreement, it is likely to be signed in the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), slated for next March in Bangkok, Thailand, which President Kim will attend.

The framework agreement contains 24 articles on trade cooperation, agricultural and fisheries cooperation, maritime transport, shipbuilding, intellectual property rights (IPRs), standards and conformance, scientific and technological cooperation, and the environment. The agreement also envisions the establishment of a joint economic committee.

Brittan, meanwhile, told Kong that the EU Council of Ministers has decided that the EU will participate in the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO), the international consortium responsible for the construction of two 1,000-megawatt light-water reactors in North Korea.

"However, Brittan said that the format of participation and the level of financial contribution will be decided later," the official said.

With regard to trade issues, Kong called on Brittan to speed up negotiations on "standardization," one of the obstacles facing Korean companies trying to export their goods to Europe.

Currently, the EU is negotiating with the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand over the standardization issue. When these negotiations are concluded, the EU is expected to start talks with Seoul on the issue, the official said.

The EU side, meanwhile, requested that Korea improve the environment for foreign investment, start negotiations on the procurement of telecommunications equipment, and strengthen the protection of intellectual property rights (IPRs).

Kong also called for the EU's help in Korea's entry into the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), noting that Seoul is determined to join the organization by 1996.

Brittan will pay a courtesy call on President Kim Yong-sam at Chongwadae [presidential offices] today before leaving for home.

EU's Leon Brittan on Car Market Opening

SK2911041695 Seoul YONHAP in English 0253 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 29 (YONHAP) — The European Union (EU) demanded Wednesday that Seoul remove "cultural" obstacles for EU automobile exports here and refrain from providing any indirect subsidies to the Korean shipbuilding industry.

"I would like the Korean Government to agree not to give national support or any indirect subsidy to the Korean shipbuilding industry," said Leon Brittan, vice president of the European Commission (EC), who is on a tour here for an annual Korea-EU ministerial meeting.

"We are concerned about the increased shipbuilding capacity of Korea," he said, adding that Korea's huge production capability will eventually lead to an oversupply in the world market for shipping vessels in the near future.

On wider access for European cars here, the EC vice president demanded that Seoul remove a combination of "cultural" obstacles which make EU cars less "appropriate" in the Korean market.

He also hoped that South Korea and the EU will join efforts to continue the World Trade Organization's (WTO) financial market opening talks by coming up with ways for "further enhancement and deeper participation" in the deal.

On the possible cooperation between the EU and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, Brittan said that "we are ready to enhance dialogue with the APEC if it takes on a complete form."

He noted that APEC is still very young and the EU is closely watching what kind of organization it will be as well as what is going on in APEC discussions.

Stressing that his region not only has economic but also political interests in the Korean peninsula, Brittan said that he has promised a certain amount of financial contributions to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) on the provision of two light-water reactors to North Korea in return for Pyongyang's scrapping of its suspected nuclear weapons program.

Evaluating improved relations between Seoul and the EU especially after President Kim Yong-sam's European tour last March, the EC official said that the recent decision by the EU to contribute to KEDO "symbolizes our desire to achieve political stability in the Korean peninsula."

"Europe's interest is not limited to economy in the Korean peninsula," he said, adding that the EU, despite a low trade volume with the reclusive nation, has given some humanitarian aid to North Korea.

Leon Brittan Meets With Finance Minister

SK2911071095 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 29 Nov 95 p 9

[FBIS Transcribed Text] European Commission Vice President Sir Leon Brittan yesterday called on Deputy Premier-Finance and Economy Minister Hong Chae-hyong yesterday.

Ministry of Finance and Economy officials quoted Brittan as having expressed his full support to Korea's bid to join the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development [OECD].

Brittan expressed his appreciation for Korea's active role in bringing the World Trade Organization financial services talks to a successful conclusion last year.

In the meeting, Hong stressed on the need for a deeper cooperation between Korea and the European Union in view of the increasing trade volume between them.

The European Union accounted for 12.1 percent of Korea's global trade volume last year, the Ministry of Finance and Economy said.

Hong and Brittan have agreed to finalize the Korea-EU framework agreement as soon as possible, to clear lingering hurdles from the way to trade and investment expansion between them.

NSP, National Police Arrest Pomminnyon Leaders

SK2911115995 Seoul YONHAP in English 1153 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 29 (YONHAP) — The Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) and National Police reported Wednesday the arrest of 29 leaders of the southern headquarters of the Pan-national Alliance for Unification of the Fatherland (Pomminnyon) on charges of violating the National Security Law.

The police said the arrested included Kang Chae-u, 75, Pomminnyon Chairman; Chon Chang-il, 74, vice chairman of the southern headquarters; and Sin Chang-kyun, 87, permanent advisor to the southern headquarters.

The police were also searching for other Pomminnyon members, a police officer said.

Kang and others were charged with siding with the North Korean call for the withdrawal of American troops from Korea and the repeal of the national security law.

In addition, the police charged, they formed Pomminnyon's southern headquarters, an organization benefitting the enemy, last February and promoted a plan to have inter-Korean talks on Aug. 15.

The officer said Pomminnyon has bee operating despite the Supreme Court ruling in August 1992 that Pomminnyon is an organization benefitting the enemy.

Kim Yong-sam Determined To Push for Special Law

SK2911112195 Seoul YONHAP in English 0742 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 29 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam is "firmly" determined to push ahead with the legislation of a "May 18 special law," irrespective of any ruling the Constitutional Court may make or whether appeals for the judicial body's review of the matter are dropped, a ranking Chongwadae [presidential offices] official said Wednesday.

"There's no change in (the president's) intention to bring to justice the masterminds of the May 18 incident through legislation of the special law regardless of how the Constitutional Court decides or how opposition parties react," the official said.

He added, "the special law is essential from the perspective that there should be no recurrences of such tragic incidents in the history of our constitutional rule."

The source noted that Germany legislated a special law immediately after the country's reunification focusing on suspending the statute of limitations for illegal activities committed by the East German Communist Party, adding that the German precedent could be used as a good reference for President Kim's bid to adopt a special statute on the Kwangju tragedy.

President's Plan To Enact Special Law 'Firm'

SK2911043095 Seoul YONHAP in English 0224 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 29 (YONHAP) — A ranking government official said Wednesday President Kim Yong-sam's plan to enact the special "May 18" law that calls for punishing those responsible for the Kwangju incident in 1980 "is firm," adding that the statute would be duly made according to constitutional procedures.

He added, however, that the Constitutional Court's ruling on the prosecution's decision not to indict the perpetrators of the incident may have bearing on the proposed legislation.

"The responsible party (ruling camp) cannot make a law at the expense of violating the Constitution, can it?" he told reporters.

On the reported speculation by some political circles that in case the court upholds the original decision not to indict, the Constitution may be revised to pave the way for punishing the masterminds of the incident, he said, "Let's first wait and see what ruling the Constitutional Court will make, instead of discussing the matter at this point in time. [as received]"

Another official said, "I understand the issue of constitutional revision has been raised in the course of stressing that there is no change in the plan to enact a special law, irrespective of the Constitutional Court's ruling tomorrow," remarked another official, "Germany after reunification made a law suspending the statute of limitations for crimes committed by East German communists, and we can make a special law without amending the Constitution."

It is rash to link President Kim's special law plan with the issue of constitutional revision, the source added, noting that such an amendment requires a national referendum which is too heavy a political burden on the government.

In a related development, the court held a plenary session of justices to put the final touches on its ruling of the original decision by the prosecution concerning the Kwangju incident that will be announced Thursday.

Chon's Lawyer Views Move To Pass Special Law

SK2911090095 Seoul YONHAP in English 0849 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 29 (YONHAP) — Former President Chon Tu-hwan's lawyer Yi Yang-u charged Wednesday that the move of political circles to enact a special law concerning the 1980 Kwangju incident is both an undemocratic and inhumane act that destroys constitutional government.

Yi made the remarks while commenting on the withdrawal of an appeal by opposition groups to the Constitutional Court for re- examining the prosecution's decision not to indict those responsible for the infamous suppression of pro-democracy demonstrators in Kwangju in May 1980.

It is not right if they (the appealers) approach the matter in the manner of solving a puzzle, while eyeing to avoid the statute of limitation issue, he remarked.

Regarding possible countermeasures by the Chon camp, Yi said, "Until the Constitutional Court makes a final decision, there will be no change in our stance."

When asked about Chon's joint cooperation with current members of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party who had previously worked under the Fifth Republic, he commented, "It's not strange for them to do so now that they are also targets of the proposed May 18 special law."

On the timing of publicly revealing Chon's written answer, which has already been submitted to the prosecution, the lawyer said, "We will disclose it as a defensive measure at the most advantageous time for us."

Asked on rumors alleging that Chon has conferred with Kim Tae-chung, president of the major opposition National Congress for New Politics, were flatly denied by Yi, who said, "It's of no value even to comment on."

Committee Drops Case on Kwangju Complaints

SK2911094895 Seoul YONHAP in English
0939 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 29 (YONHAP) — As complaints were withdrawn against the prosecution's decision over those responsible for the Kwangju incident, the Constitution Committee would drop the case, thus paving the way for the political circles to map out a law bill without being bound by the question of constitutionality.

Soon after lawyer Yu son-ho and several others, on behalf of the complainants, withdrew the complaints, the Constitution Committee convened a plenary session of the nine committee justices Wednesday afternoon, which decided that they would put off a final decision on it for two weeks until an agreement comes from the Seoul District Prosecution against which the complaints were filed.

The prosecution promptly said they agree, stating they have no objection to the withdrawal of the complaints.

With the planned drop of the case by the Constitution Committee, it has become impossible for the prosecution to re-investigate those involved in the Kwangju incident at least until a special law on the incident is legislated as currently planned by the political circles.

Originally the prosecution planned to launch re-investigation of the incident as soon as the Constitution Committee ruled the prosecution's earlier decision not to indict those responsible for the brutal suppression of the Kwangju uprising was unconstitutional.

The prosecution said they have no objection to the withdrawal because they still believe their earlier decision that they had no right to indict those responsible for the Kwangju incident was right.

The Constitution Committee is expected to handle the case as if the complaints did not exist after all.

The cases withdrawn were all the four complaints: one filed by 322 persons related to Kwangju incident organizations: one by 18 previously involved in the Kim Tae-chung "sedition" case: one by In jae-kun and 19 others: and another filed by 24 officials of the political gathering for democratic reforms.

Opposition Drops Appeal to Constitutional Court

SK2911084695 Seoul YONHAP in English
0828 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 29 (YONHAP) — The opposition Democratic Party (DP) and others who had appealed to the Constitutional Court for reversal of the prosecution's decision not to indict those involved in the May 18 bloody suppression submitted a written statement dropping their motion to the court Wednesday.

With the withdrawal, the prosecution's investigation and the political situation for enacting the proposed "May 18" special law is in no danger of violating the Constitution in punishing not only ex-Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u, but also their followers.

The action came amid speculation that the court would make a decision Thursday that would acknowledge the expiry of the statute of limitations for those having assisted Chon and No already.

Upon receiving the appealers' application for the retraction of their appeals, the court called a meeting of justices to decide on whether they should nullify the legal proceedings for the appeal.

President Kim Yong-sam had instructed the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) last week to enact the May 18 special law as demanded by the opposition camp, and both camps have been moving to press for the statute to punish all of those involved in the Dec. 12 military rebellion and the May 18 bloody suppression of the Kwangju movement.

If the court decides that the statute of limitation for the followers of Chon and No has already expired, the enactment of the special law for punishment of all of those involved in those incidents would be deemed unconstitutional.

Kim Tae-chung Comments on Kwangju Issue

SK2911032595 Seoul YONHAP in English
0109 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 29 (YONHAP) — Kim Tae-chung, president of the main opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP), said Wednesday that former President Chon Tu-hwan would take "strong measures" against President Kim Yong-sam's instructions to enact a special law for the punishment of those responsible for the bloody suppression of the Kwangju uprising in May 1980.

According to a source close to the opposition leader, the NCNP chief also remarked that Chon appears to be "holding a card " to deal a fatal blow to the incumbent president.

Kim Tae-chung made the remarks amid reports that the Fifth Republic leader, describing the chief executive's directive as political retaliation, plans to wage a frontal confrontation with the Kim Yong-sam administration. Whether the opposition leader had made contact with Chon before making such statements was not disclosed.

In a speech Tuesday at a women's meeting, Kim Tae-chung said, "The truths of the May 18 incident should be brought to light and the masterminds (of the Kwangju incident) should be judged strictly by law" but added, "there is no need to send them to a prison."

He went on to say, "I think they can be treated with generosity in the spirit of humanism and reconciliation, thus taking a step back from the remarks he made Monday stressing that all those involved in the Kwangju incident must be brought to justice "to correct history."

Prosecution 'Firm' on Summoning Ex-President

SK2911063695 Seoul YONHAP in English
0600 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 29 (YONHAP) — If it reopens the case of the bloody suppression of the 1980 Kwangju uprising pending the Constitutional Court's ruling on the incident, the prosecution will question former president Choe Kyu-ha about his role in the incident by any means available.

Choe Pyong-kuk, head of the public security affairs department of the prosecutor-general's office, said Wednesday that there is a way of securing testimony from the former president in case he refuses to appear before prosecutors as he has before.

It is a firm policy of the prosecution to summon Choe as a witness, he stressed.

Under the criminal procedure code, the prosecution can only ask Choe to make statements about the Kwangju incident as a witness, and if he refuses to comply with the request, it has no way of directly questioning him, the official explained.

However, Choe can be summoned to appear in a court and be questioned as a witness in the presence of a judge and a public prosecutor as part of the procedure of perpetuating evidence, he added.

If he still refuses to appear in a court, the court will serve a summons on the former president, Choe pointed out, so there is no way for Choe to avoid being interrogated by the prosecution about the Kwangju incident.

Article Views Debate Over Statute of Limitations

SK2911055395 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
29 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] With former presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u facing prosecution for the May 17 coup in 1980, controversy is erupting over the question of the 15-year statute of limitations in crimes of sedition.

The debate about the statute of limitations centers around how to determine the point at which the coup had been successfully carried out and how to measure the 15-year period.

Legal experts and political parties are variously claiming Aug. 16, 1980, Sept. 1, 1980 and Mar. 3, 1981 as the points at which the military takeover was accomplished.

The three dates refer to the occasions, in that order, when Choe Kyu-ha resigned as president, when Chon was elected to succeed Choe in an indirect vote in 1980, and when Chon began a full seven-year term as president of the Fifth Republic in 1981.

If the coup is judged as having been accomplished on either of the former two occasions in 1980, legal action against the coup masterminds is out of the question, according to legal experts.

However, if the process of the coup is interpreted as ending up with the inauguration of the Fifth Republic in 1981, the two former presidents and 56 others accused of participating in the coup d'etat could be charged with sedition.

On the other hand, military mutiny charges, along with sedition, could also be brought against them, as the Constitutional Court ruled that the period of Chon's and No's presidential terms should not be counted in calculating the length of the statute of limitations because a head of state cannot be charged for this crime while in office under the Constitution.

In these circumstances, the statute of limitations extends to the year 2000 for Chon and to the year 1999 for No, with the other 56 avoiding punishment because the statute of limitations for their crimes in 1980 has already expired.

With the envisioned "May 18 Special Bill," the limitations issue is also raising further debate over whether the new legislation can avoid violating the constitutional ban on retroactive legislation.

Prosecution Official Comments on Probe

SK2911071895 Seoul YONHAP in English 0623 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 29 (YONHAP) — The prosecution began Wednesday its selection of figures to summon for questioning related to the 1979 military rebellion and the 1980 bloody suppression of the Kwangju movement with the final ruling of the Constitutional Court on the May 18 case close at hand.

A senior official at the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office said that the direction and limits of the investigation are likely to be clearly decided after the court makes its decision Thursday.

"Since, as of now, we think it is inevitable to investigate into the two cases together, we are preparing to reopen the investigation into those involved in both cases," he said.

Ex-presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u were allegedly involved in the two incidents.

About four months ago, the prosecution decided not to indict those involved in the May 18 suppression amid protests from the public and opposition parties, but President Kim Yong-sam recently instructed the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) to enact a special law to punish those involved in both occurrences.

The court, deliberating the appeal from an opposition party and representatives of civic organizations, is scheduled to judge whether or not the prosecution's original decision not to indict those was constitutional.

The military powers who grasped power through the Dec. 12 coup d'etat in 1979 reportedly suppressed the democratization movement in Kwangju on May 18, 1980, killing hundreds of Kwangju citizens in the process.

The prosecution plans to summon both ex-presidents and their followers including Reps. Ho Hwa-pyong and Ho Sam-su of the DLP and Yi Hak-pong, who were all senior officials of the Defense Security Command at the time of the two incidents.

Chon's predecessor as President Choe Kyu-ha will also be summoned, according to the prosecution.

Joint Chiefs Head Not To Retire Unless Ordered

SK2911071695 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 29 Nov 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gen. Kim Tong-chin, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said yesterday that as a soldier it is his duty to live and die on the orders of a superior officer.

Thus it is out of the question for him to retire of his own accord without an order to do so, he concluded.

Gen. Kim participated in the military crackdown of the May 18 popular uprising in Kwangju in 1980 as commander of the 61st Regiment of the 20th Army Division.

He has been under public pressure for his role following a presidential order last Friday that special legislation be prepared to punish those responsible for the massacre of hundreds of Kwangju citizens 15 years ago.

"I followed the order (to go to Kwangju) and acted as I was told to do as a regimental commanding officer," he said. "If following a superior officers' order, which is equal to life itself, subjects me to punishment, I will accept it without dodging it."

"Should that happen, however, I fear that it may send the message that it is okay to disobey superior officers' orders, wreaking havoc with the military chain of command," he said.

It is said that the envisioned special law targets ex-presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u and others who masterminded the May 17, 1980 coup and the Kwangju crackdown the next day and so will not affect "innocent" participants who did as they were told.

However, the military itself is split over whether or not the general will stay on as virtual head of the Armed Forces. Those sympathetic to Kim's predicament say that he will complete the remaining one year of his two-year term.

Critics argue that Kim is not fit to hold on to his current post and continue to lead the Armed Forces now that the government has decided to punish those responsible for the Kwangju military suppression.

Following Friday's presidential order to enact the "May 18 special law," Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho invited Gen. Kim to an early morning meeting Monday to discuss recent developments.

"We talked about military matters and particularly about North Korea, which might misjudge the volatile political situation here (following the No Tae-u money scandal and the decision to enact the special law)," he said.

Dismissing speculation that they discussed his future, he said that Minister Yi asked him to do his best to maintain military readiness so as to deter any possible North Korean armed aggression.

As to the public's image of the Armed Forces, Gen. Kim said, "I was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the Army in 1961. I recall having slept in trenches while chasing North Korean armed agents."

"But now, soldiers are ridiculed in television skits," he deplored.

Finance, Economy Ministry Sets Up Trade Office

SK2911071195 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 29 Nov 95 p 9

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Cabinet yesterday endorsed the installation of a trade coordination office at the Ministry of Finance and Economy.

The office, staffed by 10 civil servants from various ministries and organizations, will be led by a director general. It will be in charge of coordinating different views on major trade issues among government ministries and agencies.

The new office will give more weight to the role of the already powerful Ministry of Finance and Economy, which controls policies on taxation, budget and finance.

This also runs counter to the Kim Yong-sam administration's push for a small government, officials outside of the Ministry of Finance and Economy, said.

Banks' Overseas Borrowing Rates Rise

SK2911072195 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 29 Nov 95 p 9

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Banks' medium and long-term overseas funding costs have been rising steeply since the beginning of this month due to the so-called "Japan Premium," the Bank of Korea said yesterday.

In November, 3- to 5-year borrowing rates averaged Libor [London Interbank Offering Rate] plus 0.2-0.25 percent, up 0.15-0.2 percentage points in October, apparently affected by the Japan Premium, which refers to the rise in interest rates as a result of Japanese banks going insolvent en masse.

Up until October, medium and long-term overseas funding costs had remained stable at around Libor plus 0.05 percent despite the Japan Premium, the central bank said.

With overseas funding costs soaring, domestic financial institutions have been putting off overseas borrowing, causing firms to suffer from the rising interest rates of foreign currency loans. The Korea Exchange Bank, which seeks to issue 140 million dollars worth of floating rate notes in Hong Kong next month, expects to see the interest rate reach Libor plus 0.4 percent.

The sharp rise in overseas funding costs was attributed to the fact that Japanese banks, which had been the primary funding source for Korean banks, cut down on fund supplies owing to aggravated financial conditions.

Short-term borrowing costs also remain high although the rate showed a sharp drop compared to the record high of Libor plus 0.875 percent in October, according to the central bank.

As of Nov. 20, the interest rate on overseas borrowing with a maturity of one year or less stayed at Libor plus 0.3-0.5 percent, up from the pre-October rate of Libor plus 0.2 percent.

A central bank spokesman said some Japanese banks have been disposing of Korean paper due to a shortage of funds, adding fuel to rising borrowing costs.

Korean banks, faced with a further rise in funding costs, are prodding the Bank of Korea to extend more foreign currency loans.

The Ministry of Finance and Economy, in its bid to counter soaring borrowing costs, has lifted its ceiling on medium- and long-term overseas funding by saving banks to 2.6 billion dollars from the originally projected 2 billion dollars for 1995.

Burma

Political Climate After Suu Kyi Release Viewed

BK2511144695 (Internet) BurmaNet News in English 21 Nov 95

[Speech by Dr. Sein Win, prime minister of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, delivered at the International League for Human Rights Breakfast Meeting on 21 November; place not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Honored Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Thank you for giving my delegation and me the opportunity to speak with you this morning. As Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been released it is crucial that we look critically at the true situation in Burma. To do this we must ask two questions:

1. Will the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi lead to a better political climate, more freedom, easing of restrictions placed on political parties and eventually to dialogue between Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, ethnic leaders and the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC]? and

2. Has the release signaled a change of policy on the part of the SLORC and, therefore, will the human rights situation improve?

We all knew that it would take some time to answer these questions following Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's release, however, it is now four months and the answers are becoming very clear. Look at the facts:

a) Immediately following her release, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi made it clear that she wanted to hold talks with the SLORC on any issue except the question of her leaving the country. She was also very diplomatic with the media hoping to create a political environment conducive to meaningful dialogue taking place. She has done everything in her power to convince the SLORC to talk, sadly without success.

b) At the time of her release the SLORC made it clear that she would be treated as any other citizen of Burma, not as the leader of the party which won the 1990 General Elections and not as the leader of the country's democratic movement.

c) Since August 1, the SLORC has started attacking Daw Aung San Suu Kyi using the state-owned media as the vehicle. Without using her name, SLORC has said she was jealous of their achievements, and in some articles, there are even indirect warnings to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy [NLD].

d) Following Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's release SLORC sentenced U Thu Wai, Chairman of the Democracy Party and two other leading political figures to seven years imprisonment for allegedly distributing false information to foreign news agencies.

e) SLORC Foreign Minister, U Ohn Gyaw, in his address to the UNGA [UN General Assembly], mentioned Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's release, however, failed to make any mention of SLORC's commitment to democratic reform or improvements in the human rights situation. [sentence as received] He spoke of national "reconsolidation" not "reconciliation" and

f) SLORC's Electoral Commission has rejected Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's reappointment as General Secretary of the National League for Democracy.

If you consider these factors then it is clear to see that the answer to question No.1. is, "No".

If you consider that Amnesty International's and other human rights monitors confirm that there is wide spread use of slave labor, forced relocation, rape and land confiscation practiced by the SLORC army, hundreds of political prisoners remain languishing in Burmese prisons and the people of Burma are constantly subjected to fearful intimidation then you must say that the answer to question two is also clearly, "No."

As Prime Minister of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma it is my duty to support the work of Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD. As a means to this end I have appointed Dr. Thaung Htun as our Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Thank you.

NCGUB Issues Statement on National Convention

BK2411044595 (Internet) BurmaNet News in English 24 Nov 95

[Statement issued by the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma in Washington, D.C. on 22 November]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma [NCGUB] is fully supportive of the National League for Democracy's [NLD] position as clarified by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at her press conference in Rangoon on November 22 regarding the so-called National Convention being held by the military-run State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

It is common knowledge that the convention was designed by SLORC purely for the purpose of legitimizing military rule in Burma and never had the intention of fulfilling the aspirations of the people. Any party, organization or government that wishes to see democracy and human rights return to Burma will never give credence or recognition to that convention.

Strong opposition to the national convention has to be expressed and the futility of the exercise will have to be made known to the SLORC because the generals are hoping that they will gain international recognition through the convention. They are hoping that with recognition, the much needed assistance will come from international financial institutions as well as through investments.

The time now is very crucial and the international community should remain alert to developments in Burma. It should help strengthen the role of the National League for Democracy in shaping Burma's democratic future and give complete support to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's efforts to bring about national reconciliation.

There are obvious reasons for supporting Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's proposed dialogue. Presently, SLORC plans to push ahead with the national convention, pass a constitution to secure military dictatorship in Burma, and call for controlled elections to take over the reins of the country. If the process goes through, the people will continue to be enslaved without any rights and the country is bound to face another round of nationwide unrest.

The option offered by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy is to hold a dialogue toward achieving national reconciliation and subsequently to work together to build a truly democratic nation which is the aspiration of all the people. This will be a situation where everyone, including the SLORC, wins.

There are plenty of reasons for the National League for Democracy to boycott the present SLORC's National Convention. However, there is no rational reason for the generals to decline the NLD's offer. They should take the opportunity to prove that they truly have the people's interests at heart and start a process of national reconciliation with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

Minister Addresses National Convention Opening

BK2911124495 Rangoon TV Myanmar Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 28 Nov 95

[Address by Lieutenant General Myo Nyunt, Burmese minister of religious affairs and chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission, to the National Convention plenary session at the President's Residence Compound in Rangoon on 28 November — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Esteemed National Convention delegates: I am very happy to see such solid attendance by the National Convention delegates, who are in good health and look happy, at today's National Convention plenary session. I extend my warm welcome to you all. The National Convention delegates, our National Convention Convening Commission [NCCC], the National Convention Convening Work Committee [NCCWC], and the National Convention Management Committee [NCCMC] have cooperated at this National Convention and have made considerable achievements. We are working at the National Convention to obtain the basic principles for drafting a state constitution. We are not drafting a new constitution; after the basic principles are fully obtained, preparations will be in place to draft a new constitution. [passage omitted — comparing constitution drafting process to construction of a building and weaknesses of 1947 and 1974 Constitutions]

An objective review of the situation in Myanmar [Burma] shows the vast differences between the past and present. From the former system of leadership under a single-party system, we are marching toward a multiparty system. From the former centralized economic system, we are beginning to develop a market economy. From the period of assorted insurgencies, we are gaining momentum in striving toward national reconsolidation. We now have the responsibility to strengthen and safeguard unity and peace.

We now have 10 political parties; moreover, we now have many indigenous groups working for national development since their return to the legal fold. Under these unique circumstances, it has become necessary for us to develop principles and procedures to avoid extremes in flexibility in order to ensure the development of the genuine multiparty system we aspire to. No one disputes or dislikes our goal — the emergence of a democratic nation. We may have a common goal, but we must avoid the mistake of being too earnest about reaching our goal.

Delegates, the six objectives of the National Convention reflect the thinking and policy I have just mentioned. The objectives are:

1. Nondisintegration of the Union;

2. Nondisintegration of national unity;
3. Perpetuation of national sovereignty;
4. Promotion of a genuine multiparty democracy;
5. Promotion of the universal principles of justice, liberty, and equality; and
6. Participation by the Defense Services in a national political leadership role in the future state.

We have a duty to implement these objectives unwaveringly. [passage omitted — further explanation of objectives and duties of the National Convention Convening Commission]

In accordance with the lawful delegation to the NCCC by the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], we formed the NCCWC and gave it suitable assignments. The NCCC drafted the procedures for the National Convention and made these procedures public on 2 January 1993. The NCCC prescribed these procedures in accordance with the powers prescribed in Section 5-C of Order No. 13/92 of the SLORC. The objective and nature of the National Convention procedures are aimed at the success of the convention and systematic and free discussion. [passage omitted — details on procedures and rights and regulations concerning delegates and panel of chairmen]

We are holding a convention of the highest standard and prestige in Myanmar. It is a sustained endeavor. This endeavor should be recorded in the annals of the history of Myanmar. It is absolutely necessary to have and to follow precise and sound regulations and procedures for this undertaking, in which political parties, class and mass organizations, and national races are participating in systematic discussions, submissions, and the compilation of relevant facts. It is a noble tradition that every cultured and disciplined society should uphold with discipline, methodology, respect, and prestige. Although we need not have exact discipline in exchanging pleasantries outside, all delegates are aware of the need to have adequate discipline and methodology at the National Convention.

We have successfully held the National Convention with the full attendance of delegate groups since its inception on 9 January 1993. [passage omitted — reviewing work accomplished by convention]

Delegates, we are currently discussing the three major chapter headings related to the legislature, administration, and judiciary. We need to prescribe basic principles in detail regarding these three chapter headings. Delegate groups are to submit their reports on these chapter headings. The delegates themselves are aware of the freedom given to them in preparing these reports. There are no page and time limitation imposed upon them in preparing these reports. [passage omitted on drafting process]

The drafting process may be long, as many factors in the interests of the nation and the people must be seriously considered. While we are holding the National Convention, people throughout the nation are expressing their support for the convention. Delegates are probably aware that 4 million people participated in public rallies held in 26 major towns in January 1994. They honored and expressed their support for the National Convention. [passage omitted on public cash contribution for the convention]

What this shows is the need for the emergence of a state constitution not just in name, but a lasting constitution. The people do not want a constitution that represents the interests of just one party. It also shows the people's aspirations and recognition of the importance of the National Convention, which is being held with the participation of people from all strata of society and political parties to obtain the basic principles to draft a lasting constitution.

Delegates, the course of the history of Myanmar has changed since 1988. The basic political system as well as the basic economic system have changed. It will be necessary to cooperate patiently in paving the way for a gradual change to the multiparty system. I need not elaborate further on the fact that there is much bloodshed and destruction in European countries where the political system has changed abruptly. We have already exposed wicked plans to seize power through the use of force following the 1988 events. The BCP [Burma Communist Party] planned to capture Keng Tung, Lashio, Mandalay, and eventually Yangon [Rangoon] after their seizure of Mong Yang. The plan even led to the presence of a naval fleet of a major country in Myanmar's waters. We were able to expose the conspiracy to relate the armed struggle in urban and rural areas to the political struggle. A similar situation prevailed in the southeast region, where military activities were stepped up following threats against major towns. These were brazen, even to the extent that bombs were set off at the Yangon City Hall.

Had we not been able to control the situation in 1988, the situation in Myanmar today would be worse that the deteriorating situation in some European countries. We were able to neutralize the threats that emerge during times of change in systems and eras and establish stability, law, and order. As everyone knows, we were able to achieve outstanding success in our efforts toward national reconsolidation due to farsightedness and pure goodwill. Therefore, we all have the responsibility to value and uphold the successes achieved so far and the momentum of success of the National Convention. The SLORC will in no way allow these successes to be diminished and will not allow any group to destroy or disrupt the National Convention — a national political procedure. We are all aware that the entire populace, including the Defense Services, have high expectations for the National Convention. Therefore, I would like to urge the esteemed delegates to cooperate with the NCCC, the NCCWC, and the NCCMC for the success of the National Convention.

Our goal is the accomplishment of the fourth political objective — the establishment of a new, modern, and developed nation in accordance with the new state constitution. We have vowed to achieve this goal with determination, diligence, and courage. There can be no person in any strata of life, including the national races residing in the country, who does not like or favor the political objectives — stability of the state, community peace and tranquility, and the prevalence of law and order; national reconsolidation; the emergence of a new and enduring state constitution; and the establishment of a new, modern, and developed nation.

The inevitable goal for Myanmar is the full and successful implementation of the four political objectives, the four economic objectives, and the four social objectives prescribed by the state. There is no other goal apart from this. This is a crucial time for the united participation of the entire populace for the successful implementation of the political, economic, and social objectives. The National Convention plays a vital role in this development process. Therefore, the success of the National Convention will be the catalyst for the emergence of the state constitution. The emergence of the state constitution is the fundamental catalyst for the emergence of a genuine multiparty system. There can be no result without a catalyst.

Delegates, we and the esteemed delegates have been able to prescribe the basic principles for the first three chapters — the principles on the state, state structure, and head of state — from among the 15 chapters agreed upon after thorough discussion in line with the six national convention objectives. Next, proposals to prescribe the basic principles for the three chapter headings — the legislature, administration, and judiciary — will be discussed and presented. We will all have to pay attention to the presentation of various proposals by the delegates. Then, in accord with the procedures of the National Convention, the NCCWC will prescribe the basic principles after careful scrutiny of the comprehensive reports presented by the Panels of Chairmen of the delegate groups.

I conclude by earnestly urging coordination and cooperation in prescribing the basic principles.

NLD Announces Constitutional Convention Boycott

OW2911023495 Tokyo KYODO in English 0201 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yangon [Rangoon], Nov. 29 KYODO — Myanmar's [Burma's] military government announced Wednesday [29 November] that it has been notified that the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) will boycott the national convention to draw up guidelines for a constitution.

The convention resumed Tuesday in Yangon after a seven-month recess.

A total of 84 delegates from the NLD, led by pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, attended Tuesday's plenary session.

Suu Kyi told a press conference Nov. 22 that the convention in its present form was not acceptable. "The work procedures of the convention are not democratic and the basic principles for the proposed constitution include some which are not consonant with a truly democratic state," she said.

"If the national convention continues in its present form, it cannot assist in achieving national reconciliation, genuine multiparty democracy, or a state constitution that enjoys the support and confidence of the people."

She asked for dialogue with the authorities to discuss changes in the procedures, and said a decision to boycott would be made when necessary.

Speaking at the plenary session, lt. Gen. Myo Nyunt, chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission, warned that the ruling military junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council, will not accept any attempt by any organization to disrupt or destroy the process of the national convention.

He urged the national convention delegates to cooperate patiently with the government to achieve a peaceful transition to multiparty democracy.

Convention Commission Responds

BK2911045695 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 0130 GMT 29 Nov 95

["Full text" of a "press release" issued by the "National Convention Convening Commission concerning actions of the delegates of the National League for Democracy at the National Convention," dated 28 November 1995 in Rangoon]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. The plenary session of the National Convention, which convened on 9 January 1993 with the participation of eight delegate groups to draw up basic principles for drafting the Constitution, was held on 28 November [1995]. In his address at the plenary session, Lieutenant General Myo Nyunt, chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission [NCCC], explained the importance and political essence of the National Convention. The full text of the speech was broadcast on the evening of 28 November on radio and television.

2. As in previous sessions, the plenary session of the National Convention on 28 November was attended by delegates from the NLD [National League for Democracy] — five representatives of the NLD from the group representing political parties, and 81 elected representatives of the NLD from the group representing elected representatives.

3. While the National Convention is being held, and is systematically gaining momentum in accordance with six objectives [nondisintegration of the Union; nondisintegration of national solidarity; perpetuation of sovereignty; promotion of a genuine multiparty democracy system; promotion of universal values of justice, liberty, and equality; and a national political leadership role for the Defense Services in the future state], the NLD on 27 November sent a letter expressing a negative attitude toward the National Convention to U Aung Toe, chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee [NCCWC]. The letter was signed by NLD Chairman U Aung Shwe.

4. On 28 November the NLD again sent another letter to the NCCWC urging it to reply to its letter of 27 November, and criticizing the National Convention.

5. Moreover, on 28 November the NLD sent yet another letter to the NCCC chairman, stating that their delegates will no longer attend the National Convention. The main reason for this was scrutiny of a speech delivered by the NCCC chairman at the plenary meeting of the National Convention [on 28 November] showing that it did not include the issue of dialogue they had desired.

6. The actions of the NLD stated above can be viewed as follows:

To abrogate [pe phyet pyit yan] the basic principles prescribed and obtained by the National Convention since they are not consonant with their party's opinion, and to prescribe the principles favored by their party;

To reorganize the delegates according to persons they favor to be able to lay down principles their party likes;

To lay down methods and procedures to be followed at the National Convention, and to proceed as they like;

To give priority to the issue of dialogue to carry out the above matters.

Review of [the NLD] demands shows that they are aimed at destroying the ongoing work of the convention and the successes which were achieved after systematic discussions and coordination, and that they were made in contempt.

7. They are aiming to destroy the National Convention by emphasizing negative views on the National Convention to mar the successes achieved so far. Only when the National Convention is destroyed can their NLD substitute the National Convention with another convention which will give priority to their party's interests and which they can dominate.

8. Moreover, it is viewed that the demand for dialogue is being made unnecessarily so that a group considered to be NLD leaders can lord over the government. Since they could not get a dialogue on this basis, they have stepped up further efforts to destroy the National Convention.

9. Their attitude and action did not consider the interests of the state, but only the aims at furthering those of their own party alone, and amount to total rejection, opposition to, and abandonment of national interests. Nonetheless, the NCCC will not abandon its noble national duty.

10. The National Convention will continue to be held with the participation of convention delegates from the group representing political parties without the NLD, the group representing elected representatives without the NLD elected representatives, and other groups representing national races, peasants, workers, intellectuals and intelligentsia, public service personnel, and special invitees. The convention will continue in accordance with original arrangements based on the successes achieved so far.

Walkout Called 'Embarrassing'

BK2911012995 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0100 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Burma's main opposition National League for Democracy [NLD] party has pulled out of the military government's convention to write a new constitution.

The 87 members of the opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party left the convention lodgings after the regime refused to open talks on their complaints of undemocratic principles and procedures.

Evan Williams reports from Rangoon the development is highly embarrassing for a military trying to convince the world its constitution will be legitimate.

[Begin Williams recording] The regime reopened the convention, refusing to address any of the opposition's complaints of an undemocratic process and concerns over key principles that would write the army into future political power.

At a meeting with party chiefs, the NLD delegates voted to walk out in protest, trying to force open talks, leaving the convention accommodations for private homes. It is not clear if they intend to return or how the military might respond, but the embarrassing walkout highlights moves by Suu Kyi's opposition to try to force the regime into some form of dialogue on what the opposition considers key principles of Burma's democratic future. The regime so far refuses to budge and will probably continue the convention regardless, but the opposition is tired of being ignored and willing to run great risks to force open talks. [end recording]

Aung San Suu Kyi Comments

BK2911062695 Hong Kong AFP in English 0555 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] RANGOON, Nov 29 (AFP) — Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi said Wednesday her National League for Democracy (NLD) would boycott a convention to frame a new constitution for Burma until the junta agreed to hold talks.

The National Convention opened its Wednesday session without the participation of NLD delegates, who served notice the night before that they would stage a walkout in protest over the set up of the forum.

"We are not trying to destroy the National Convention. We are trying to make it one that will be acceptable to the people of Burma and to the international community," Aung San Suu Kyi told a news conference.

"The National League for Democracy will not be attending the convention until such time that a proper dialogue has been achieved," she said.

The NLD announced its decision in a letter to convention officials late Tuesday, despite having attended an opening ceremony earlier in the day.

The military made an official statement on the boycott in a release issued early Wednesday, saying that the NLD's move was aimed at promoting its own interests but that the convention would continue.

"Such attempts aimed at the disruption of the National Convention ... were made with intent to mar the successes achieved so far by the National Convention," the statement said.

The statement, which also appeared in the local press, said that despite the absence of the NLD, the National Convention would continue with its "original arrangements" and on "the basis of successes so far achieved."

The convention, first convened in January 1993, comprises delegates from ethnic minority groups, political parties and others hand-picked by the military junta.

Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD have complained that the convention is aimed at legitimising the position of the military, which seized power in 1988, and that elected politicians made up only 15 percent of those present.

The military ignored the results of national elections in 1990 which were won by a wide margin by the NLD.

The junta has agreed to hand power over to a civilian government once a constitution has been drawn up, but insists on maintaining a leading role in future administrations.

National Convention Plenary Session Continues

BK2911073795 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 0630 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The plenary session of the National Convention was held today at 0900 at the Central Conference Hall in the President's Residence Compound on Ahlone Road in Yangon [Rangoon].

It was attended by Lieutenant General Myo Nyunt, chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission [NCCC]; Lt. Gen. Maung Thint and Brigadier General Myo Thant, vice chairmen of the commission and commission members; U Aung Toe, chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee [NCCWC]; U Tha Tun, vice chairman, and work committee members; Brig. Gen. Tin Aye, chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee, and committee members; National Convention delegates; and local and foreign journalists.

Lt. Gen. Myo Nyunt, chairman of the NCCC, was chairman while Brig. Gen. Aung Thein, secretary of the NCCC, was secretary for the meeting.

The secretary first declared the plenary session open and valid since 545 out of the 591 delegates were in attendance. Next, Lt. Gen. Myo Nyunt, chairman of the plenary session and chairman of the NCCC, delivered an address. The meeting briefly adjourned at 0915.

When the plenary session resumed at 1000, U Bo Myint from the delegates group representing workers acted as alternate chairman and Dr. Thaung Myint, member of the NCCWC, U Lei Kwe Chin from the Shan State Kokang Democratic Party, U Maung Gyi from the Union Pa-O National Organization, U Kyi Nyunt from the group representing national races, U Tin Maung Kyaw from the group representing peasants, U Hla Myint from the group representing technocrats and intelligentsia, U Ant Maung from the group representing civil service personnel, and U Ko from the special invitees group acted as members of the Panel of Chairmen. U Ko Ko Gyi, director of planning from the Office of the NCCWC, acted as secretary for the meeting.

In accord with the agenda, U Bo Myint, chairman of the plenary session, delivered an address. Next, proposal reports on prescribing detailed basic principles for the legislature to be included in the state constitution were presented by U Than Maung and U Kyi Maung from the peasant delegates group. The meeting recessed at 1105.

The plenary session is in progress at the Central Meeting Hall.

The full text of Lt. Gen. Myo Nyunt's speech will be broadcast on tonight's news program on TV and radio.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Jordanian Officer Visits; Cooperation Planned

BK2911100295 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 3 in Malay 0530 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Malaysian Armed Forces will strengthen their relations with the Jordanian Armed Forces. Datuk Dr. Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan, deputy minister of defense, said the Defense Ministries of the two countries have undertaken a military training exchange program over the past three years.

He said this while receiving Prince 'Abdallah al-Husayn, commander of the Royal Jordanian Special Forces, at the Defense Ministry this morning. Prince 'Abdallah and his 14-member delegation are on a week-long visit to the country. The prince was greeted by General Datuk Che Mohamed Nor Mat Arshad, acting commander of the Malaysian Armed Forces, upon his arrival at the ministry.

Datuk Dr. Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said Malaysia will consider the Jordanian Government's offer of military exercises in that country:

[Begin Fadzil recording] We have said that we are able to cooperate with Jordan and will accept its offer. [end recording]

After calling on the deputy minister, Prince 'Abdallah held closed-door talks with Gen. Datuk Che Mohamed Nor Mat Arshad.

Anwar Rules Out Challenge to Mahathir as Leader

BK2611143195 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 24 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Ahmad A. Talib]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Kuala Lumpur, Thurs — In a move to finally put to rest speculation that he may challenge Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed as UMNO [United Malays National Organization] president, Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim today told party members not to waste their time trying to nominate him for the post.

His clear and firm stand was well received and drew applause from members and party leaders, especially vice-presidents and supreme council members. They said Anwar's statement should be seen as final and should put a stop to whatever speculation pertaining to the party leadership.

Using the joint opening of the UMNO Youth and Wanita annual assemblies at the Putra World Trade Centre as the platform for his end-all-speculation call, the UMNO deputy president said:

"My loyalty to the president of the party cannot be questioned anymore. Let no one try to pit us against each other or waste their time in nominating me for the post of president, either as a test or to hurt feelings.

"Like trying to trap the wind, this is an exercise in futility. My stand on this is clear and firm. The unity and tradition of the party struggles should always be given priority and I will not budge from that position.

"Still, there are those in the periphery who are always jealous of our success. These groups are everywhere, in and outside the country. It is increasingly clear that these groups are trying very hard to undermine the country's political stability, especially when their disappointment mounts.

"Recently, some political eunuchs have been spreading allegations that there is a rift among national leaders. They speculated that the 1987 incident will recur.

"Deep in their hearts they hope that this will actually take place. These people will go to great lengths and will do anything to spread their belief, including the use of the foreign media.

"We also know that the foreign media is very enthusiastic about stories regarding disunity and breakups because they subscribe to the idea that freedom and democracy must be accompanied by endless infighting and squabbles. They are bound to be disappointed because we are not likely going to fall into their old trick."

Anwar said UMNO would be more matured next year as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. He said party members should not allow anyone to disrupt their unity and solidarity. [passage omitted on UMNO meeting proceedings]

Mahathir Criticizes 'Irresponsible' Party Members

BK2411101295 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] UMNO [United Malays National Organization] President Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir

Mohamed has advised party members to reject people who resort to destructive action like bribery, slander, and damaging property in their eagerness to become leaders.

The prime minister said this kind of people will destroy the party, race, and country. He said this when opening the UMNO general assembly in Kuala Lumpur. He also said the government gives opportunities to talented and resourceful bumiputera [indigenous] entrepreneurs and small-time businessmen to improve their performances so that the so-called unhealthy Ali-Baba [Malay-Chinese] practice of selling bumiputera shares and the like can be eradicated.

According to him, this approach is better, safer, and more successful than the previous practice of granting shares, opportunities, lands, licenses, and other benefits to anyone with a bumiputera name without considering the person's performance, background, and ability.

Dr. Mahathir also warned of the materialistic culture evolving among the Malay community. He described this culture as irresponsible. It can destroy the community. Even the most progressive community could be destroyed with the materialistic culture.

Referring to the just concluded branch and division elections, he said there has been an intense tussle for posts by irresponsible members. These members may be successful in securing the posts, but the posts will be meaningless if UMNO is destroyed in the process.

Dr. Mahathir stressed that corruption, even at the lowest level, is an unhealthy trend. Leaders who have secured their posts through corrupt practices cannot be good leaders. He advised UMNO members to reject those are too keen to be leaders as they can harm the party.

UMNO Official Announces 'No Contest' Decision

BK2611142295 Kuala Lumpur SUNDAY STAR in English 26 Nov 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuala Lumpur — There will be no contest for the top two posts in UMNO [United Malays National Organization] next year as the general assembly unanimously adopted a "binding" motion yesterday to retain Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as president and Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim as his deputy until 1999.

Permanent chairman Tan Sri Sulaiman Ninam Shah said although the party constitution allowed contests, the motion was binding as the delegates had agreed unanimously.

"The decision means that we cannot deny the unanimous decision by the delegates who want a no-contest for the top two posts until 1999.

"If we go against the decision, according to Malay tradition it is treachery," he told the assembly after the motion was unanimously adopted in the hall.

Earlier, in approving the motion of thanks for the presidential address, the 1,886 delegates agreed to the addendum forwarded by Penang UMNO on grounds that all state liaison committees had made a stand for Dr Mahathir to continue as president and Anwar as deputy.

The addendum also stated that the liaison committees had given their full support to the two leaders.

Penang Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Mohamed Shariff Omar had on Friday forwarded the addendum when he tabled the motion of thanks for the presidential address, which was seconded by the Federal Territory UMNO.

The addendum states: "The motion realises the consensus from all state liaison committees which have given their solid support to the president and his deputy, and as such the UMNO General Assembly on November 24 until November 26, 1995, make a stand to maintain the leadership of Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed as president and Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim as deputy president."

Breaking from the traditional show of hands, Sulaiman had asked the delegates to stand up to show their approval or remain seated if opposed.

When the two leaders remained in their seats, he asked Dr Mahathir and Anwar if they disagreed, saying: "You have to stand." Dr Mahathir and Anwar then stood up.

Later, Sulaiman told reporters that the motion would carry through until 1999 when a decision would be made whether the two posts would be contested in the 1999 party election.

"The no-contest does not violate the party constitution," he said, adding the decision was endorsed by UMNO branches and divisions nationwide.

Secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said the question of a contest no longer existed.

"The supreme council, state conventions and now the general assembly have made their stand. This should put to rest any speculation of the purported rift and contest for the posts of president and deputy president."

Singapore

Business Council Formed With U.S. To Aid Ties

BK2911035795 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 29 Nov 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] THE Singapore-US Business Council, proposed last month by Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong to boost economic cooperation between the two countries, has been formed and it boasts some of the most prominent captains of industry in Singapore as its members.

Chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan, the council is perhaps the most high-powered of such councils set up so far. Its members include Kwek Leng Beng, executive chairman of the Hong Leong Group; Ong Beng Seng, managing director of Hotel Properties; Cheng Wai Keung, chairman of Wing Tai Holdings; Ho Kwon Ping, president of the Wah Chang Group; and Koh Boon Hwee, chairman of Wuthelam Holdings.

"It's an important council because the US is a major economic partner of Singapore both in terms of trade and investment — the US is still the leading investor here, especially in the electronics and chemical sectors," Dr Tan told reporters yesterday after meeting the council's Singapore members.

Already endorsed by the US government and business leaders, the council has 10 Singaporean and 10 US members.

The US members — the list is being finalised — will be announced by year-end.

They will also be made up of leading corporate chief executives.

Dr Tan is due to meet with them in the US next April.

The council's goals are to foster US-Singapore trade and investment flows, joint ventures between their private sectors in third-country markets, and business networking among their businessmen.

The council's first meeting is fixed for Aug 7-9 1996, and high on its agenda is increased US-Singapore cooperation in investments in the region.

"There's a lot of potential for US companies which want to enlarge their business or increase their investments in the region to take advantage of the expertise, facilities and contacts which we've already developed," Dr Tan said.

Members of the council will also have talks separately with Prime Minister Goh, Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew, Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Trade and Industry Minister Yeo Cheow Tong.

The council is scheduled to meet every 18 months for two days here.

The Economic Development Board, which is to serve as the council's secretariat, will coordinate the meetings.

The US embassy in Singapore yesterday welcomed the council's birth.

"Through active participation in this new council, prominent business leaders of both countries can work more closely together," it said in a statement.

"Their efforts will complement the work of both governments in increasing trade and exchanging views on how business relations can be further strengthened."

Singapore has already set up similar councils with Germany, Britain, France, Australia and Thailand.

Philip Yeo, the EDB [Economic Development Board] chairman who was also present at yesterday's press conference, said they have been "fairly successful".

Trade Development Board Departs for South Africa

BK2711035195 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 27 Nov 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] THE Singapore Trade Development Board [TDB] will lead a week-long mission to South Africa today.

The board said over the weekend that the mission was timely given the recent developments in the South African economy, and Singapore's on-going efforts to expand trade ties beyond its traditional markets.

Singapore's two-way trade with South Africa has increased significantly since 1992 when the United Nations trade sanctions were lifted.

For the first 10 months of 1995, total trade reached S [Singapore dollars] $843 million, with exports totalling S$551.6 million and imports reaching S$291.4 million.

Singapore's level of investment in South Africa has also been on the rise. Some $200 million has been invested to-date.

TDB director of international operations Tay Thiam Peng said the African continent offers untapped opportunities. "South Africa, which is economically more developed than the other African countries, has potential to act as an effective platform for Singapore companies to access the African market," he said.

The TDB hopes to attract South African companies to establish a regional trading base in Singapore, and use the Republic as the gateway to the booming Asian region.

Similarly, the mission also seeks to interest South African companies in forming strategic alliances with local companies to launch investments into the region and thereby facilitate greater market access for South African firms into Asia.

The mission hopes to identify opportunities for local services- related companies to invest in South Africa and seeks South African companies to take on regional projects with their Singapore counterparts.

Cambodia

Arrest of U.S. Dollar Counterfeiters Urged

BK2411141295 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 24 Nov 95 pp 1, 2

["This Issue's Comment" column by Neay Tek: "Those Concealing Fake Dollar Notes Must Be Found"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 7 November 1995, the second day of the boat racing festival, a major crime was detected by chance. That is, some $1 million in fake dollar notes were found without any police investigation.

It happened when the lid of a rice cooker fell into the river from one of Kompong Chhnang Province's racing boats behind the Tonle Sap night club in Russei Kev District, Phnom Penh City. Actually, the lid did not cost much. However, the boatman, who was busy celebrating the national festival, dove into the water after it. What he found was not the cooker lid but fake dollar notes rolled up in a plastic bag tied to a big rock.

The superstitious will say that ghosts led him to this discovery. For those who believe in the factual, the find represents doomsday for the criminals, because the notes have been found even though they were hid underwater.

The find shows that criminals dealing with fake dollar notes have committed all sorts of crimes to destroy the national economy. As the fake notes uncovered amounted to millions of dollars, one wonders about the value of those that we have not been able to find.

It is understood that fake notes have directly affected the livelihood of the poor and the national economy because they are different from drugs which only pass through Cambodia on the way to a third country. Hundreds of thousands of people who are unable to tell authentic notes from fake ones will certainly suffer as they lose the dollars they need to make a living. Many people who have become used to spending dollars have been cheated now and then.

The competent authorities should arrest and send the criminals who hid the fake notes in the river near the Tonle Sap night club in Phnom Penh to court, no matter what. The place where the fake dollar notes were concealed can lead to the arrest of the criminals or those hired to conceal them.

Judging from the previous arrests of the smugglers of fake dollar notes, it is definite that the perpetrators are not the ordinary people. Most of them are high-ranking armed men with support from inside the country. This is why they are so insolent in the face of the law. To attain their goals, they even dare to kill people to destroy evidence. Nevertheless, they forget that despite their backing, their rank, and guns, they will certainly be sent to court if they are arrested. There is law in Cambodia. It is a state of law like other countries of the world, and not as lawless as some politicians have alleged.

Journalist Apologizes to Sirivut for Plot Story

BK2911065295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0635 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PHNOM PENH, Nov 29 (AFP) — The Cambodian journalist whose story quoting Prince Norodom Sirivut outlining an assassination plot against Second Prime Minister Hun Sen led to the prince's arrest apologized Wednesday for the report saying the prince might have been joking.

Prince Sirivut, the half-brother of King Norodom Sihanouk and the secretary general of the royalist FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] party, denies having spoken to any reporter about a plot to kill anyone.

So Nero, secretary-general of the Khmer Journalists Association (KJA) and publisher of the Khmer-language Angkor Thmei newspaper, said his November 7 story was based on a conversation he had had with the prince, but allowed that the prince may not have been serious.

"It is possible that he may have spoken seriously or was just joking," So Nero said in a statement. "I should have found out which was the case before I wrote the story.

He also said the prince might have thought the conversation was off the record.

"...I should have gone back to him and given him a chance to repeat his statements on the record and to explain them," the statement said.

He added, however, that the prince who is also a member of parliament, is a public official and should have realized "that everything a public official tells a reporter may be important for the public to know."

Nevertheless, he said: "I should have given Prince Sirivut the chance to deny or explain about his statement and I apologize for not doing that."

So Nero is a key government witness in the case against Prince Sirivut and the KJA ethics committee is now looking into his story which led Hun Sen to launch an investigation into the alleged plot to kill him.

"There may be some problems with the story," KJA President Pin Samkhon said Tuesday.

It was unclear Wednesday when the KJA ethics committee would come to a decision about the story and what impact, if any, it might have on the case.

Prince Sirivut, who has been detained at the Ministry of Interior for nine days and faces life in prison if convicted of the terrorism, criminal conspiracy and subversion charges against him, has denied speaking to any reporter about a plot to kill Hun Sen.

Many of his associates have said it is extremely unlikely that the bespectacled, 44-year-old prince would plot to kill anyone.

Ing Huot: Sam Rangsi's KNP Party 'Illegal'

BK2511094195 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 25 Nov 95 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] During his visit to Canberra, Australia this week, Ing Huot, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, told reporters that the Royal Government will recognize the "Khmer Nation Party" [KNP] created by [former Finance Minister] Sam Rangsi once the party adheres to all the formalities required by law.

Ing Huot stated on 20 November that: "Sam Rangsi's party is illegal because formalities, required by law as in other countries, have not been observed." He added, however, that the government, which is led by coalition parties can recognize the Sam Rangsi-led KNP if it has filled out all necessary legal papers. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Australian radio reported that during his visit to Australia, Ing Huot also discusses the current situation in Cambodia, especially the recent arrest and detention of Prince Kromkhun Norodom Sirivut, saying these matters would not make the situation in Cambodia deteriorate. [passage omitted]

Sam Rangsi Criticizes Goverment for KNP Ban

BK2911051395 Hong Kong AFP in English 0444 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PHNOM PENH, Nov 29 (AFP) — Cambodia's former Finance Minister and leader of the banned opposition Khmer Nation Party (KNP) Sam Rangsi on Wednesday lashed out at the government for not recognizing his organization saying he and the party were victims of "administrative harassment."

"They have no legal grounds to claim our party is illegal," Sam Rangsi told reporters at KNP's new headquarters. "The decision to consider us still unlawful is an act of intimidation."

The government maintains that the KNP is illegal because it was formed before it had received permission from the Ministry of Interior.

"This argument is specious, without legal worth and only serves to show the administrative harassment faced by a liberal and democratic opposition party," Sam Rangsi said.

Late Tuesday, the Ministry of Interior issued a statement saying that even though KNP had submitted the necessary documents to form a party, because they were not all turned over before the party was officially launched on November 9, the ministry still considered the party illegal.

"The Ministry of Interior maintains its position that the Khmer Nation Party remains an unlawful party," the statement said.

Sam Rangsi contends that all the required documents, including lists of the party's steering committee and financial records, could not have been turned over until the party had been officially formed.

Further, he argues that the documents demanded by the interior ministry are required by the current election law only for a party to register candidates to stand for election. The next general election is not scheduled until 1998.

Cambodia's constitution contains an explicit right to organize political parties but has no laws, other than the election law, regarding the technicalities of creating a political party.

Sam Rangsi said he had submitted the documents required by the election law only to satisfy the demands of the ministry.

In their Tuesday statement, co-Ministers of Interior Yu Hokkri and Sar Kheng said that because Sam Rangsi had questioned the applicability of the election law and adhered to it anyway, relations between the KNP and the ministry would be "problematic."

They said he should wait to form his party until the National Assembly has passed a law regarding the formation of political parties.

Despite the alleged intimidation, Sam Rangsi said the KNP, which holds a strong nationalistic, anti-corruption and pro-human rights platform, was registering hundreds of new members a day and its ranks had swelled to nearly 40,000 people.

"The government is very afraid of this momentum of popular support the Khmer Nation Party enjoys.

Indonesia

Daily Urges Manila, MNLF To 'Compromise'

BK2911090895 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 29 Nov 95

[Editorial: "The Two Negotiating Sides Must Be Ready for a Compromise" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nur Misuari, chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF], and Philippine Government representative Manuel T. Yan began the third round of formal peace talks between the MNLF and the Philippine Government in Jakarta yesterday.

In an opening speech, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said there had been various talks at the Support Committee and the Joint Committee since the second round of talks ended in September 1994. There has been a consensus on over 80 percent of issues related to the fight for autonomy.

The fact that there has been progress in the peace process in no way means that the remaining tasks will become easier. "The remaining 20 percent of the issues are most difficult, and can easily trigger a dispute," Alatas said.

There are two basic issues standing in the way of talks between MNLF and the Philippine Government. First, whether or not it is necessary for a plebiscite (referendum) before the Moros in Mindanao (southern Philippines) gain autonomy. Second, the integration of 15 MNLF personnel into the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The Philippine Government has rejected MNLF's demand that it set up its own provisional government to govern a larger territory in the southern Philippines without a plebiscite because a plebiscite is against the constitution.

"A change in the Philippine Constitution, including Moro autonomy outside four provinces under the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao will be possible only thorugh a constitutional amendment and a plebiscite," Manuel T. Yan said some time ago.

The need for a plebiscite set by the Philippine Government has been opposed by Nur Misuari because he considers it incompatible with the Tripoli Agreement signed in Tripoli, Libya on 23 December 1976.

Under the Tripoli Agreement, the two sides agreed to expand Moro autonomy to 13 provinces and nine cities in the southern Philippines. Not surprisingly, Nur Misuari has accused the Philippine Government of violating various agreements and being unwilling to fully implement the Tripoli Agreement.

Regarding the integration of MNLF personnel into the Armed Forces of the Philippines, there has yet to be a consensus on the "proportional representation" of MNLF forces, the ranking and qualification of the integrated MNLF forces, and the duties, composition, and organizational structure of regional security forces.

In view of the gravity of the issues facing the two disputing sides, there is no other way for the two sides holding the Jakarta peace talks but to be prepared for a compromise.

We hope that the two disputing sides will at least be able to get closer to each other if a consensus is not possible during the talks that will last until 1 December.

Given the complexity of the issues, it is difficult for us to expect a breakthrough in the five-day Jakarta talks.

Indonesia is not discouraged by the gravity of the issues. "The two sides will know their respective positions better by resuming their talks in Jakarta. The two sides will be aware of anxiety and concern inhibiting agreement. I strongly believe that it will not be impossible to remove the irritants if they want to be more accommodative, flexible, and prepared for a compromise," Alatas said.

Indonesia has hosted three rounds of formal peace talks between MNLF and the Philippine Government. Our readiness to become a host shows Indonesia's deep commitment to peace anywhere.

Nevertheless, talks between MNLF and the Philippine Government are too precious to be wasted, because a failure will only bring the two sides back to the battlefield.

Nur Misuari warned during the meeting yesterday that a failure in his talks with the Philippine Government could bring dangerous consequences.

This followed Misuari's earlier statement that his organization and people were facing the dilemma of continuing to strive for autonomy or resuming a guerrilla war. Misuari feels that the peace process has been proceeding very slowly since the second round of talks ended in September last year.

The Indonesian Government attaches great importance to the continuation of peace talks between MNLF and the Philippine Government. Accordingly, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas stated in his speech that Indonesia was ready to offer help by any means to ensure that negotiations would proceed rapidly, efficiently, and successfully.

Nevertheless, we strongly realize that everything will be up to the disputing sides themselves. Do they want to coexist peacefully or resume the war?

Philippines

Defense Secretary Urges MNLF To Foster Peace

BK2311035895 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The government pins its hopes for peace on the results of the peace talks between the government and the MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front]. According to Defense Secretary Renato De Villa, it is most likely that other Muslim groups would follow suit if the MNLF agrees to foster peace. De Villa added that Abu Sayyaf and even the Moro Islamic Liberation Front remain a threat because of the strengthening of their respective forces over the past months. Nevertheless, De Villa assured that the military and police are prepared to suppress the terrorists.

International Satellite Systems Access Suspended

BK2911125095 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 27 Nov 95 pp B1, B12

[Report by Katherine R. Espina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Ramos has suspended the implementation of a circular by the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) allowing direct access to international satellite systems, thus reinforcing the monopoly of Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat) in the international satellite business here.

In a memorandum to Communications Secretary Jesus Garcia, Executive Secretary Ruben D. Torres said that "in order to protect the interest of government without prejudice to the constitutional or legal validity of the DOTC circular, the president has suspended the implementation of the said circular pending the determination of its full impact to Philcomsat through the study team to be created by DOTC."

Philcomsat, the country's sole signatory to the International Telecommunications Satellite (Intelsat and International Maritime Satellite (Inmarsat), has been opposed to DOTC Circular No. 94-277 issued in July last year. Philcomsat has urged the president to revoke the order.

The DOTC has been defending the policy to Malacanang [presidential palace], emphasizing that the circular was meant to promote competition in line with the government's thrust of liberalization, privatization, and deregulation. The department has asked the president to deny Philcomsat's request.

Communications Undersecretary Josefina T. Lichauco said Friday that the study will be completed before the end of December. She added that Assistant Secretary Teresita Valdez was appointed to head the study team.

"The study will find out the impact of allowing direct access to Intelsat on government's equity in Philcomsat," Lichauco said. She said that 20 percent of Philcomsat's shares have been sequestered by government. The government owns a total of 40 percent in the company.

Affected companies seeking direct access to Intelsat such as the Gokongwei-owned Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. (Digitel) and Philippine Global Communications Inc. (Philcom) have lamented Malacanang's decision.

"The suspension is a setback to the policy of deregulation. Before the issuance of the policy, there were public hearings and every issue was heard," William S. Pamintuan, Digitel senior vice president, said.

Pamintuan said Digitel has complied with all the conditions of Philcomsat, including DOTC's acceptance of responsibility for the earth station operation not just of Digitel but also of Philcom.

Philcomsat earlier warned that the policy discriminates against Philcomsat and violates its right to due process.

Company officials expressed fear that the policy will lead to the firm's closure. Philcomsat claimed the DOTC policy was unconstitutional and illegal as it violated Intelsat agreements.

The DOTC countered that the policy was above board.

Lichauco said that Philcomsat may pursue other businesses like its U.S. counterpart, Comsat Inc., which had a similar experience and by refocusing its attention on marketing space segment capacity, has maintained profitability.

"If Philcomsat offers competitive and innovative services similar to what Comsat did, then it has a big potential market. It can reverse the action of four companies (Globe Telecom, ICC, Philcom, and Digitel) to seek direct access to Intelsat, from being negative to something positive in Philcomsat's favor," Lichauco said in an earlier letter to Garcia.

Philcomsat recently applied with the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) for authority to engage in other services such as the operation of an international gateway facility (IGF), a personal communications network (PCN), and very small aperture terminal (VSAT) service.

Simeon Kintanar, NTC commissioner, indicated that Philcomsat will likely get the nod for an IGF operation, saying that there is still room for another IGF operator.

Thailand

Government Rejects Khun Sa's Request for Asylum

BK2911043995 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Nov 95 p 8

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand has rejected a verbal request from drug warlord Khun Sa to be allowed to spend the remaining days of his life in this country.

Giving refuge to Khun Sa not only violates Thai laws, but also goes against Thailand's commitment to the international community to fight narcotics trafficking, said Phondet Worachat, director of the Press Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Phondet said that if Khun Sa is found in Thailand, he will be arrested and sent back to Burma or to some other country such as the United States which lists him as the most wanted international criminal for controlling between 70-80 percent of the total drug supply to the US.

Khun Sa stepped down last Wednesday as leader of the Shan liberation movement at a religious ceremony at his headquarters in Homong. He said he wished to spend his final days in Thailand for both the Shans and the Thais shared the same religion, a similar language and way of life.

Mr. Phondet said there has been no official request from Khun Sa.

Navy Told To Aid in Fishing Dispute Prevention

BK2411100595 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Nov 95 p 9

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Navy has been instructed to join forces with neighbouring countries to devise measures to prevent future fishing disputes.

Speaking after chairing yesterday's meeting of the Defence Council, Defence Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut said Thailand has had problems over fishing with neighbouring countries including Burma, Cambodia, Vietnam and Malaysia.

He said over the past 11 months nearly 500 Thai fishing trawlers have been seized, 77 of them by Malaysia.

To cope with the problem, the defence minister asked Deputy Navy Commander Adm [Admiral] Winyan Santiwisat to study ways and measures to avoid a recurrence of violations of territorial fishing zones.

Chawalit Urges Talks With Malaysia Over Deaths

BK2511142995 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Nov 95 p 6

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dialogue with Kuala Lumpur is necessary to determine the next step in the case of the two fishermen killed by a Malaysian naval unit, the Defence Minister said yesterday.

Responding to reports Malaysia would not compensate the victims' families, Gen [General] Chawalit Yongchaiyut said it had yet to be established which party was in the wrong.

"Once we have found that out, we will discuss compensation," he said.

Earlier, Abdul Halim Ali, deputy secretary-general of Malaysia's Foreign Ministry, said the bodies would be returned and funeral expenses met.

Malaysia insists the naval unit merely fired warning shots when it pursued the Thai trawler in its 200-mile exclusive economic zone on November 6.

Gen Chawalit said action would be taken if the attack was found to have taken place in international waters.

But if the two died in Malaysian waters, Kuala Lumpur would be asked why it could not just fire warning shots.

"They could have seized the boat and crewmen," he said. "Why did they choose to fire at the 16m trawler with a 1,400-tonne boat?"

The issue is likely to be raised at a Thai-Malaysian border committee meeting this month in Malaysia.

However, Malaysia wants the meeting postponed indefinitely as its defence minister will be otherwise engaged, said Gen Chawalit.

In the attack, the skipper of the trawler and a 14-year-old hand were killed and five other crewmen arrested. Two of them were under 15 and released.

Banhan Ready To Discuss Disputes With Malaysia

BK2611134995 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 26 Nov 95 p A3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha said yesterday he will again discuss solutions to fishing disputes between Thailand and Malaysia with his Malaysian counterpart Mahathir Mohamed during the Asian summit next month.

Banhan said he has instructed the Foreign Ministry to step up negotiations for the release of Thai fishermen arrested by Malaysian authorities for alleged poaching in that country's waters.

The prime minister was reacting to a Thai fishermen's plan to protest what they described as the Banhan administration's "feeble response" to the deaths of two Thai fishermen early this month, who were killed when a Malaysian navy vessel fired on a trawler allegedly fishing in Malaysian waters.

"I think we need a little more time to work things out with Malaysia," he said.

Thailand has protested the killings, saying the Malaysian navy used excessive force, and demanded compensation for the families of the dead. But Malaysia claimed its naval vessels only fired warning shots in an attempt to stop the Thai trawlers from escaping.

Banhan said the problem of poaching by Thai fishermen has become more frequent in recent years. He urged Thai fishermen to stay within Thai waters.

"The Thai navy will provide full protection for Thai trawlers fishing in Thai territory," he said.

The prime minister said at present 352 Thai fishermen are being held by Malaysia following there arrests by Malaysian authorities for alleged poaching.

Defence Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut said Thailand and Malaysia should work out a solution to better solve the dispute and prevent possible use of excessive force in the future.

"The Malaysian authorities have every right to arrest and take legal action against any Thai fishermen found encroaching on Malaysian waters. But the use of lethal force is a little too unfriendly."

Adm [Admiral] Prachet Siridet, Navy commander in chief, said he considered the shooting at the Thai trawler as "unusual excessive use of force".

Prime Minister Denies Reported Bribe for Project

BK2711094995 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Before leaving on an official visit to Nakhon Pathom Province, Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha spoke with Public Relations Department correspondents about an article in a Swedish newspaper claiming that a Swedish firm paid money to a Thai political party during the last election to win favor in the bidding to supply submarines to the Navy. He said the article was untrue:

[Begin recording] [Banhan] I know nothing about it. Funds have not been allocated for any purchase.

[Unidentified correspondent] The article claimed that money was given to the Chat Thai Party during the election.

[Banhan] How could that be possible? No one knows if we will purchase any submarines. It is impossible for a company to give money if there is not even a procurement plan. Funds have not even been set aside for a purchase. No one would give money under those circumstances. This is nothing more than a fabrication. I believe the spokesman will clarify this issue.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Banhan] Measures will be taken somehow.

[Correspondent] File a suit against the paper?

[Banhan] I think the Foreign Ministry will summon the ambassador on this issue. It is nonsense and nothing more.

[Correspondent] It is damaging.

[Banhan] That is right. Such news headlines are damaging.

[Correspondent] It is news, whether or not it is true...

[Banhan, interrupting] It is news, but it damages the country. No, I know nothing about the submarine issue. I do not know where it came from. [laughter]

[Correspondent] There was a submarine project during the last government, but it was shelved.

[Banhan] There are no funds for a submarine. The previous government's policy was that our funds should be used for other purposes. It is impossible for any company to offer money like that. It would be different if approval had already been given for a purchase, but funds have not even been set aside for a submarine. At most it is just a plan. This kind of news causes damage all around.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] [end recording]

Prachet Expresses Surprise Over Bribery Report

BK2811070995 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Nov 95 p 8

[Report by Watsana Nanuam and Soemsuk Kasitthipradit]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Royal Thai Navy Commander Adm [Admiral] Prachet Siridet expressed surprise over the report in a Swedish newspaper that bribes had allegedly been paid by Kockums, a Swedish industrial group, to boost its chance in winning the contract to supply two diesel-powered submarines to the Thai Navy.

A senior naval officer said Adm Prachet questioned if there was a motive behind the report at yesterday's monthly meeting of senior naval officers at the Navy headquarters.

Adm Prachet insisted that the Navy's acquisition plan would be carried out with transparency.

Navy Chief-of-Staff Adm Winai Intharasombun reportedly told the meeting that the Navy had not decided which type of diesel submarine it would procure.

Adm Winai heads a Navy committee set up by Adm Prachet to study various models of submarines presented to the Navy for consideration by seven foreign companies — including their hulls, engine, weapons and electrical systems.

"The report might be politically motivated," said a senior Navy officer, referring to the allegation in a Swedish newspaper.

The Navy is likely to conclude its study next month, when it is expected to submit a study report to Defence Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut for consideration, he said.

The allegation had nothing to do with the navy, the officer said.

Seven countries — Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, France, Spain, Italy and Russia — have already presented to the Navy details of their submarines for Adm Winai's committee and its sub- committees to study.

The two principal competitors are reportedly Kockums and the German submarine builder, HDW.

Swedish Firm Rejects Submarines Bribery Report

BK2811042595 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Democrat Party said yesterday a Thai representative of the Swedish defence company vying for the contract to supply the Royal Thai Navy with two submarines had offered it a political contribution before the July 2 election.

Democrat party secretary-general Sanan Kachonprasat said the party turned down the offer because then Democrat-led government had no plan to purchase submarines.

The disclosure came amid allegations that the company had paid bribes to the Chat Thai party to secure an order for two submarines. [Passage omitted on background and covered by referent item]

Kockums [Swedish defense contractor] also denied the accusation through spokesman Thomas Arosenius who told Reuters the accusation was groundless.

"I am surprised that Dagens Nyheter devotes space to baseless and malicious rumours such as those spread by Westander and Svenska Freds," he said.

"I spent all of yesterday investigating this, and I did not find the slightest hint that any payments had been made," he said, adding that as far as he knew no other companies had tried to bribe the Thai government.

But Svenska Freds stood by its charges.

In a telephone interview with the BANGKOK POST, Westander said payment was made in the form of a campaign contribution for the July election for a political party.

A member of Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society said he was certain that Kockums' representative in Thailand was fully aware of the contribution.

He said the company made the contribution with confidence that the party would emerge the winner in the election.

Swedish Defence Minister Thage Peterson decided on Sunday to defer a visit to Bangkok planned for December, but denied the move had anything to do with Sunday's article.

Late last night Peterson invited the media to a meeting in Stockholm to show documents proving the Swedish government did not provide any guarantee to Kockums.

Peterson's press secretary said the defence minister would make public a letter he sent to Thai authorities saying simply that "The Swedish government buys equipment from Kockums and is satisfied as a customer".

In Sunday's article, Westander said the Swedish government had acted as a guarantors for Kockums, and that the Swedish embassy in Bangkok had given a letter to Thai officials on September 15 giving Kockums the right to sign the contract in the Swedish government's name.

The letter states that "Kockums is held by the Swedish government", even though parent company Celsius was privatized in 1994, Westander said .

Swedish Journalist Stands Firm on Bribery Story

BK2911075195 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Nov 95 pp A1,A2

[Report by Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Henrik Westander the Swedish author of the article on the controversial Thai-Swedish submarine deal, stood firm yesterday on his "important and crucial information" that accused Swedish industrial group Kockums of paying bribes to Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha or his Chat Thai Party during the recent election campaign.

Westander, who has been researching international trade in arms for the last 15 years, said in a long distance interview from Denmark yesterday that his article was based on information provided by "a reliable source — a person who has given important and crucial Information" about the submarine purchase scandal.

He said he spent one-and-a-half months researching the information and had concluded that "considerable sums" of money were given to either Banhan or his party during the May-July election campaign by the Celsius-owned Kockums.

Kockums' agent in Bangkok is represented hy Supridi Sriphadung, who runs a company called SP Communications. He was not available for comment yesterday.

Supridi was among a group of Thais trained at the Swedish Naval College in the early 1960s and knows most of the senior Navy people in Thailand, according to Westander's article that appeared in Sweden's largest daily DAGENS NYHETER in its Nov 26 edition.

"These payments were made in 1995, the object being to increase Celsius-owned Kockums' chances of winning a major contract for two submarines for Thailand," the report said.

Westander, who has been studying Kockums' attempts to sell submarines for the last few years, said he stood "absolutely" by his article which appeared in Swedish.

He also stood firm in refusing to reveal his source of information, saying such exposure would "go against Swedish laws" .

"That's a problem. If I have to reveal my source, it would be against Swedish law. The source has the right not to be identified," he said.

Swedish Defence Minister Thage G.Peterson has said the Swedish government would not investigate the allegations and urged Westander to turn over any evidence he has to the police.

Westander, who is an arms trade researcher for the Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society (SPAS) and an investigative journalist, rejected speculation that the report was a conspiracy to block Kockums from winning the submarine bid in Thailand. SPAS is the world's oldest peace society.

"If I wasn't 100 per cent sure, I would not have published the news," he said.

In his report, Westander accused the Swedish government of trying its best to help Kockums win the Thai submarine contract and accused the Swedish Embassy in Bangkok of handing in "an elucidation and a guarantee" to the Thai government.

"The letter opened with a major error. Despite the fact that Kockums and the Celsius concern were privatized in 1994, the Embassy wrote that 'Kockums AB is owned by the Government of Sweden,'" the article said.

According to the letter signed by Swedish Ambassador to Thailand Eva Heckscher, Kockums has the right to sign a contract for the submarines on a "government to government basis" and "on behalf of the Government of Sweden".

Swedish Ambassador Heckscher yesterday declined to comment, saying that she had nothing to add to what she had said on Monday.

"Probably this quite simply means that the Swedish government is prepared to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, an agreement to regularize and support the submarine contract," said Westander's article.

"Thus the Swedish government will guarantee the deal in a similar way to which it did in 1986 in conjunction with the major artillery deal with India, when Celsius-owned Bofors paid out 326 million Swedish kroner in commission/bribes," it added.

Westander has published two books about Swedish arms exports, one on Bofors weapons smuggling and the other on the Celsius-owned Bofors bribe-scandal in India.

Thanat: UN Speech Kept From Media by Official

BK2611115395 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 26 Nov 95 p 3

[Unattributed Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Former foreign minister Thanat Khoman yesterday accused a high-level Foreign Ministry official of preventing the mass media from publishing the speech he made at the United Nations last month.

"I have told the Prime Minister that I tried to protect Thailand from foreign interference and the prestige of the Thai people by giving a speech at the UN as a Thai delegate.

"Unfortunately, a Thai in the Foreign Ministry acted as an underling of a foreign country by alleging that my speech had dissatisfied the United States and did not report to the Prime Minister in what position I made the speech," said Mr Thanat.

He did not name the ministry official.

Mr Thanat was a member of the Thai delegation attending the United Nations General Assembly last month and delivered a speech to a UN committee on October 30.

In his speech, Mr Thanat hit back at the U.S. for making accusations against Thailand and Thai politicians on narcotics issues, saying that country had interfered in the affairs of other nations including Thailand.

Mr Thanat said he had sent a protest note to the Foreign Ministry over the action of the officials who called for a news black-out of his speech.

The action was like a slap in the face for the people of the whole country, he said.

Any Thai person who wants to know what he said at the UN can write to him and he will send them a full text of his speech, he said.

Mr Thanat on Friday announced his resignation as chairman of the government-appointed public hearings committee investigating the U.S. narcotic trafficking allegations against two Chat Thai Party executives — Watthana Atsawahem and Narong Wongwan — reasoning that his job was finished.

He will remain committee chairman until the middle of next month when his successor is expected to be appointed.

The committee will go on with the investigation by asking agencies responsible for narcotics suppression whether they have information to support the U.S. allegations.

Daily Criticizes Bangkok on Plan To Gag Media

BK2711041595 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 NOv 95 p 4A

[Editorial: "Dark Era Looms As Freedom of Speech Threatened Again"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] First came the criticism that some members of the press were ignoring reality and filing sensational reports. Then came irritation with political talk programmes, specifically those which give listeners the chance to call in and offer their opinions of the government. The Banhan administration seems to have come to the conclusion it is the media which is responsible for its low credibility and unpopularity.

Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha showed just how shallow his democratic credentials are last week when he sought help from the military, which controls hundreds of radio stations, to gag programmes critical of the coalition government. In response, the Army leaders, apparently forgetting their pledges to stay neutral and not comment on political issues, said call-in political programmes should be banned and that the media should not have too much freedom.

So it appears we might have been fooling ourselves earlier if we thought Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the defence minister, had promoted more democratically-minded military officers to the top ranks. The episode last week not only confirmed that the military has advanced very little in this changing world but also that they are once again being drawn into politics in favour of the executive branch of the government.

"There will be no opposition. There will be no government. We will not support any side," said Supreme Commander Wirot Saengsanit. What he is saying resolutely is that there are no "people" as well. We are under threat of a dark era again because of government leaders' frustration with the media. They simply do not know how to deal with democracy and have chosen to try to shut it off in the best manner they can.

We accept that some political talk shows do not present views from all sides, but these are very much in the minority. We also think that the prime minister himself is letting his vanity and lingering anger at TV anchorman Dr Choemsak Pinthong blind him as he tries to place wholesale curbs on the media. Banhan is still furious at Choemsak for allegedly breaking his word not to ask him about whether Narong Wongwan and

Watthana Atsawahem — alleged by the US to have links with drug traffickers — would be included in the Cabinet during a talk show prior to the July 2 election.

Earlier this month Banhan tried to block a reporter from the Public Relations Department from going with him to Osaka to cover the APEC leaders' summit meeting because the designated person was thought to have close ties with senior members of the opposition Democrat Party. He also instigated the transfer of a reporter from Channel 7 assigned to cover Government House.

Other politicians in this government have jumped on the bandwagon. The media curbs would obviously benefit them because they can say all they wish and decide on what information which they want the people to hear. And we see that the military, which understands little about the freedom of the press, has let itself be manipulated by the government to serve the latter's own ends.

But do the military leaders ever ask themselves how equally silly and manipulative the politicians are too? Are they any better than the people who make comments on radio talk shows? Do they ever think that this is the price for democracy and freedom of speech? If the talk shows are censored, can we also censor politicians from making inane comments in Parliament or when we are fairly confident they are telling lies?

Democrat Party spokesman Aphisit Wetchachiwa went to the heart of the matter when he said certain politicians just could not adapt themselves to the age of globalization (and may we add democracy). He said people now dared to criticize the government, but the trend was not acceptable to the politicians in power.

Banhan should look at his Cabinet line-up and ask himself if they are worthy. We are sure he isn't happy.

But the people should have a medium to express their unhappiness as well. The prime minister has also brought the military back into politics.

The events last week have brought into question whether this government is sincerely acting as the guardian of democracy or as a protector of vested interests.

TOT Investment in Cellular Network Approved

BK2911091695 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Nov 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by Utsani Mongkhonphon and Yingyot Manchuwisit]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In a lightning-fast decision, the Telephone Organization of Thailand's [TOT] board yesterday approved investment in a new cellular mobile phone network and another semi-mobile communications service.

The decision followed Intensive political pressure for the agency to find ways to improve services and reduce the charges levied by the two existing cellular services — those belonging to Chinnawat Group and United Communication Industry Co.

"The issue has become politicized," TOT director and spokesman Phaisan Phutmongkhon admitted last night.

The TOT was instructed to look Into financial plans and other technical details, Phaisan said after the board discussion.

A group of MPs and members of the Thai Chamber of Commerce recently called for alternatives to the present cellular phone services in order to boost the quality of services.

The cellular phone business is now privately controlled by two tolecom giants — Chinnawat and Ucom — whose subsidiaries enjoy monopolies through concessions awarded by the TOT and the Communications Authority of Thailand (CAT) respectively.

As Chinnawat's Advanced Info Service's (AIS) cellular contract allows the TOT, but no private entities, to invest in a new cellular phone network, the Transport and Communications Ministry, supervised by the New Aspiration Party, pushed the project through the TOT.

The contract for Ucom's Total Access Communication closes all doors for the CAT to allow new players.

Phaisan said the TOT must run the new phone service by itself, without the right to sub-contract the service to the private sector.

He said the TOT would do its best to compete with the existing private firms which now have a combined subscription of over one million.

The board meeting yesterday was closely watched by TelecomAsia Corp Plc, a fixed-telephone company which is ambitious to get into the profitable cellular mobile phone service.

Its senior executive, Chatchawan Chiarawanon, was outside the board room "waiting for a friend" until the meeting finished late in the evening.

The TOT board, Transport and Communications Ministry, and New Aspiration Party have been accused of maintaining overly-close connections with the Charoen Phokkhaphan Group, the parent of TelecomAsia.

The board yesterday also approved the TOT's investment in a Personal Handy-phone System (PHS), a newly-introduced technology by Nippon Telegraph and Telephone. The PHS is like a home wireless telephone but with a wider range of signals.

"It is the right time to introduce new services," Phaisan said.

Ucom, which has asked the TOT to invest in PHS by upgrading its unsuccessful one-way communication service known as Fonepoint, hopes to convince the TOT to hold equity in its Fonepoint (Thailand) Co.

However, the board yesterday was told that Ucom's PHS proposal had been submitted to the Attorney General's Office for legal review to determine whether it would violate Advanced Info Service's exclusive cellular contract, and whether it would be subject to the strict private-public investment act.

A Ucom executive was also outside the TOT meeting yesterday. He denied he was waiting for the results of the meeting.

Analysts said if the TOT was to invest in the new cellular phone service, AIS and TAC's listed shares would be affected because of the added competition.

Dr. Adisai Photharamik, CEO of Thai Telephone and Telecommunication Plc, told THE NATION the government should either open bidding for the cellular service or allow the private firm to help the TOT run the new network to better serve consumers.

Phaisan said the board yesterday agreed to cancel the royalty fee levied on its paging service concessionaires in order to reduce communications costs for consumers.

But the paging firms will have to cut their fees by 27 per cent to benefit the consumers, Phaisan said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Communications Minister Sombat Uthaisang insisted yesterday that he would no longer allow mobile phone operators to continue charging users for incomplete calls.

Sombat said mobile phone users should not pay if they were not connected to the number they called; and that he would no longer tolerate the companies' collection of charges for such calls.

Vietnam

Le Duc Anh Meets With Philippine President

BK2911142895 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 29 Nov 95

[Report by Truong Cong Hoa in Manila]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear Friends: Manila, the capital of the Republic of the Philippines, today gave SRV President Le Duc Anh and his wife a 21-gun salute as they made an official friendship visit to the Republic of the Philippines at the invitation of President Fidel Ramos. On the way from the airport to the Presidential Palace, Vietnamese and Philippine flags were flying along with many banners welcoming President Le Duc Anh's visit to the Philippines. President Fidel Ramos, his wife, and many high-ranking Philippine Government officials warmly welcomed President Le Duc Anh, the first Vietnamese president to visit the Philippines, an ASEAN member country, since Vietnam officially joined ASEAN.

After a grand reception ceremony in the Presidential Palace, President Le Duc Anh and President Fidel Ramos held private talks. Then they held further talks with the participation of SRV ministers and deputy ministers and high-ranking Philippine Government officials.

President Le Duc Anh was moved by his visit to the prosperous and beautiful country of the Philippines and its industrious and hospitable people. He expressed thanks for the solemn and sincere reception accorded to him and his entourage by President Fidel Ramos. President Fidel Ramos welcomed President Le Duc Anh's official friendship visit to the Philippines. He expressed his belief that President Le Duc Anh's visit will be a fine success.

During the talks, the two sides informed each other of their national situations and bilateral and international issues of mutual concern. The talks were held amid an atmosphere of mutual understanding and trust.

After the talks, President Le Duc Anh and President Fidel Ramos witnessed the signing of an agreement on education cooperation and a memorandum to supplement some points in the commercial agreement signed by the two countries in 1978.

Tonight, President Fidel Ramos and his wife will hold a state banquet in honor of President Le Duc Anh and his wife.

Le Duc Anh Receives Japanese Business Group

BK2811094595 Hanoi VNA in English 0624 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Nov.27 — State President Le Duc Anh received here this afternoon a 29-member delegation of the economic and industrial group of Japan led by Mr. Iwao Toriumi, chairman of Marubeni Corporation.

On behalf of the delegation, Mr. Iwao Toriumi introduced Mr. Anh of the delegation members, who are representativs of key economic sectors of Japan, and expressed his wish to promote long-term and firm cooperation with Vietnam in the fields of power, oil and gas, infrastructural construction, transfer of technology, agricultural machine manufacture, and training hi-tech experts.

President Anh hailed the Vietnam visit by the delegation and extended thanks to Japanese businessmen for their goodwill towards the process of construction and development in Vietnam. Highly appreciating Japan's advanced technologies in many fields, he expressed his belief in the effectiveness of the cooperation between Vietnam and Japan through the implementation of various projects, small, medium or [words indistinct] cooperative ties, he said, will make active contributions the strengthenig of the friendship between the two nations, and for peace, prosperity and development in the region.

Also today, the delegation called on Minister of Planning and Investment Do Quoc Sam. On this occasion, the delegation decided to establish an international support fund for Vietnam with an initial capital of yen [word indistinct] million which was contributed by the group's members. The fund will finance various training programmes of technical workers and provide scholarships to Vietnamese.

Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment Pham Gia Khiem and Mr. Toriumi signed a memorandum of understanding (?on) the founding of the fund's management board.

Do Muoi Leaves Hanoi for Official PRC Visit

BK2611102495 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the invitation of the Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC and president of the PRC, the general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Do Muoi, left Hanoi on 26 November 1995 for an official friendship to the PRC.

He was accompanied by Nguyen Manh Cam, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs; Hong Ha, secretary of the party Central Committee and chairman of the party Central Committee's Foreign Relations Committee; Tran Duc Luong, member of the party Central Committee and deputy prime minister; Nguyen Cong Tan, member of the party Central Committee and minister of agriculture and rural development and chairman of the Vietnam-China Friendship Association; Le Van Triet, member of the party Central Committee and minister of trade; Phan Dien, member of the party Central Committee and chief of the party Central Committee Office; Tran Van Tra [as heard], member of the party Central Committee and deputy minister of national defense; Le Duc Thuy, assistant to the Party General Secretary; Tran Cong Tao, chairman of the government border committee; Pham Van Chuong, deputy director of the party Central Committee's External Relations Department; Vo Hong Phuc, deputy minister of planning and investment; and Vietnamese Ambassador to China Dang Nghiem Hoanh.

Commentary Wishes Do Muoi Successful PRC Visit

BK2711114095 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 27 Nov 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vietnamese party leader Do Muoi arrived in Beijing on Sunday, starting an official visit to China at the invitation of Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party and state president of China.

The visit is to further promote the friendly relations and cooperation between Vietnam and China. This is the second official visit to China by the Vietnamese leader and the fifth Vietnam-China summit since the end of 1991, when the two countries normalized their relations.

Over the past four years, relations between the two countries have achieved positive progress. The two sides signed a number of treaties and agreements on cooperation. Their bilateral trade ties are also developing. Trade turnover between the two countries in the first six months of this year was $440 million. At the same time, both sides continue to solve historic and pending issues as well as newly-occurred issues through peaceful negotiations. The two countries set up (?consultative) groups of island border and on the delineation of the Tonkin Gulf between Vietnam and China. All these issues could not be solved overnight and (?despite of) the complicatedness.

Vietnam believes that with the goodwill to respect each other's independence and sovereignty, the two sides will find a fair and reasonable solution to the pending issues.

The Vietnamese party, government, and people always attach to the importance of the development of the friendship and cooperation between the two countries, considering it an unswerving and significant policy.

The Vietnamese people are very impressed by the positive development of the relations between the two countries as well as achievements recorded by the Chinese people in their national construction and development.

Vietnam believes that the official visit to China by party leader Do Muoi this time will be a success, thus paving the way for a new stage of relations between the two countries.

The visit will make the Vietnam-China relations more dynamic, effective, and stable, contributing to peace, stability, and cooperation in the region and the rest of the world.

Nguyen Khanh Meets Cambodian News Agency Group

BK2611144295 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh received a delegation from the Cambodian news agency AKP [Agence Khmere de Press] led by its General Director (I Lon) at the Government Office in Hanoi on 25 November. The Cambodian delegation is paying an official visit to Vietnam at the invitation of the Vietnam News Agency [VNA].

Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh welcomed the Cambodian delegation's visit and expressed satisfaction at results of the meeting between the AKP and VNA delegations. The meeting discussed measures to strengthen cooperation in information exchanges between the two agencies, thereby contributing to the promotion and development of the existing friendship and solidarity between Vietnam and Cambodia.

Commercial, German Banks Provide Repatriate Loans

BK2411141495 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Commercial Bank of Vietnam has provided Vietnamese nationals repatriated from Germany with loans worth about 119 billion Vietnamese dong. The loans are part of a credit agreement signed between the Commercial Bank of Vietnam and the German bank Deutsch and Ausgleichs.

The loans have been used in establishing as many as 580 enterprises that own shares in 267 other companies. This has created stable employment opportunities for over 12,000 workers.

Minister, Hungarian Official Agree on Trade

BK2511155395 Hanoi VNA in English 1433 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 25. — Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Trade Mai Van Dau today held talks with Mr Soos Karoly Attila, state secretary of industry and trade of Hungary, who arrived here yesterday for a five-day working visit.

Mai Van Dau told his guest that since 1990, particularly after the signing of an accord on trade and payment between the two governments in March 1992, trade between the two sides has gained momentum for more effective development.

He said 'Vietnam's export turnover to Hungary has increased by 25 percent annually. Last year, Vietnam earned USD 24.3 million from trade with Hungary, including USd 14.5 million from export.'

'In the first eight months of this year, Vietnam exported USD eight million worth of products to Hungary and imported from that country USD five million', the Vietnamese deputy minister added.

In Vietnam, four representative offices of Hungary have been set up while in Hungary more than 100 businesses which have trade relations with Vietnam have been licensed for business, production and service operations.

In addition, the two sides have promoted bilateral cooperation in investment, culture, education, science and technology and other sectors, the two government officials noted.

However, they said, efforts should be stepped up to consolidate the cooperation between the Vietnamese Ministry of Trade and the Hungarian Ministry of Industry and Trade in various forms such as exchange of information and documents as well as exchange of views and experiences between leading officials and specialists on matters of mutual concern.

While here, the Hungarian state secretary will meet with the minister of science, technology and environment, the chairman of the Vietnamese section in the Vietnam-Hungary Intergovernmental Cooperation Commission. He will also have working sessions with the Ministries of Planning and Investment, Industry, Finance, the people's committee of Ho Chi Minh City, and visit the Garment Company No. 10 and the Vietnam-Hungary joint venture Tanruchimwx.

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